

THE TIMES



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Church remarriage possible, says bishop

Royal couple deny plans for divorce

By ENMA WILKINS, RUTH GLEDHILL AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Prince and Princess of Wales united through their solicitors yesterday to deny that they have agreed to divorce or have discussed a financial settlement.

The solicitors said that allegations made in a French magazine that the couple would divorce next year with a £15 million settlement for the Princess were wholly untrue.

However, the future of the royal marriage and its constitutional implications continued to divide MPs and church leaders. As an increasing number of Tories suggested publicly that the Prince and Princess should divorce, others denounced their colleagues for commenting on the private affairs of the royal family.

The Bishop of St Albans, the Right Rev John Taylor, indicated that the Prince could divorce, remarry and still become King and Supreme Governor of the Church of England. A constitutional specialist said it would be inconceivable for the Princess to become Queen after a divorce.

Bishop Taylor, who is also Lord High Almoner, has close links with the royal family, went further than previous statements by the clergy. "It is possible under canon law for the archbishop to issue a faculty in exceptional circumstances for a divorced and remarried person to be ordained. If the same analogy were applied to a divorced and remarried sovereign, it would not therefore be impossible for him to be entirely acceptable to the Church of England."

Dr Rodney Barker, a constitutional expert from the



Bishop Taylor: Supreme Governor can remarry

London School of Economics, said that although the Prime Minister was unquestionably right when he said in 1992 that the separated Princess could still be crowned Queen, divorce was a different matter.

In Westminster the influential executive of the Tory 1992 Committee appeared to be split down the middle, with some of its members suggesting divorce and others criticising them for doing so.

Many MPs now confidently believe that a divorce is inevitable. But Sir Anthony Grant, Tory MP for Cambridgeshire South West and an executive member of the committee, said it was the "height of impudence" for MPs to pontificate about such matters. He was taking the line of the Prime Minister, who told the Commons at question time that he had no intention of commenting on the subject.

Peter Bottomley, the former government minister, said

that the Prince and Princess were capable of coming to their own decision without a running commentary from outside. "Most people were elected to Parliament to do parliamentary things," he said. "We are in the backwash of a book most of us have not read and it would be better if MPs did a bit more reading and tried to use their minds and their hearts rather than their mouths."

Many others took the opposite view. Patrick Cormack, Tory MP for Staffordshire South and generally opposed to divorce, said he believed that a formal split was now inevitable and necessary. "It was very ill-judged of the Prince and Princess to have brought their matrimonial problems in to the public arena," he said. "For the sake of the monarchy as an institution, and for the personal well-being of the two principals concerned, it would seem that it is a marriage that is well and truly over and if that is the case, it is surely in the interests of everyone that its ultimate dissolution be announced."

The French magazine *Voici*, which alleged that the couple would divorce early next year, was taken to court yesterday by the French publisher of *Diana: Her New Life*, from which the magazine's extracts were allegedly taken.

The Flon publishing company is seeking an injunction to halt all further distribution. A judge deferred her decision until Friday.

Leading article, page 17



The Queen smiling at pupils who had gathered to greet her during a walkabout yesterday after she had visited a school in central Moscow

'I pray that your children and ours may inherit a world fit to live in together, at peace and in freedom'

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN MOSCOW

DEMOCRATIC reform in Russia, would succeed and endure despite the present problems of transition, the Queen told President Yeltsin at a state banquet last night on the second day of her historic visit to Moscow.

In a friendly and optimistic address before 100 invited guests in the glittering Faceted Hall of the Kremlin, the Queen said she and the President had spent most of their lives believing such a dinner could never take place. The sound of church bells once again ringing across Russia was, she said, a powerful symbol of that optimism.

Addressing an audience

who had, for the first time since before the 1917 Revolution, donned dinner jackets instead of lounge suits, the Queen said: "Times of change are, not times of comfort. Russia has achieved much in the last few years, laying the foundations for a new democratic order, a new prosperity, and a new and constructive relationship with her neighbours."

"But the process of change has brought uncertainty, and not all are convinced that this great effort will be rewarded with the success it deserves. I firmly believe that it will be."

The Queen described the first visit of a reigning British monarch to Russia as "a voyage of discovery" and recalled the Anglo-Russian alli-

ance of the Second World War in which so many civilians died, especially in Stalingrad and Leningrad. The memory of their sacrifice would never be forgotten by their British allies, she said.

Recalling a visit to a Moscow school yesterday afternoon, the Queen said: "I pray that your children and ours may inherit a world fit to live in together, at peace and in freedom."

The Queen confessed to only a scant acquaintance with Russian literature, but managed to recall that Gogol, in his famous metaphor comparing his country to a galloping troika, asked in trepidation where Russia was flying to. "There is now a reassuring answer to that question: to a

better future, in partnership with our friends. Britain is proud to stand among them," she said.

Mr Yeltsin, who is clearly delighted to have the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh as his guests to bolster his shaky presidency, showered compliments in reply.

"In Russia the image of the Queen of the United Kingdom is seen as the personification of state wisdom, continuity of history, greatness of the nation. Bearing your mission with dignity. Your Majesty, you confirm an important idea: monarchy can be an integral part of a democratic system of government, an embodiment of the spiritual and historic unity of a nation."

The Queen, Mr Yeltsin said, had come to Russia at a very significant moment.

"The country is undergoing radical renovation. The process is not easy. However, we find ourselves further and further away from the epoch of dictat and suppression of the individual." He added his hope that the influence of new Russia upon the world would be positive and beneficial.

The banquet consisted of caviar, salmon in champagne, asparagus soup, chicken with fruit, and strawberry parfait. Before it began the Queen and Mr Yeltsin exchanged gifts: the Queen gave Mr Yeltsin a Spode dinner service with the Russian double eagle in gold on each piece, and a

Continued on page 2, col 3

Blair's dispatch-box debut ends in draw

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY Blair attempted to expose Conservative divisions over Europe in his first face-to-face Commons confrontation with John Major yesterday.

The Labour leader highlighted apparent differences between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, on a referendum on a single currency and said they weakened the Government.

The exchanges were a further indication that Labour may be moving towards a pledge to put the results of the 1996 post-Maastricht review conference, or the introduction of a single currency, to a referendum.

Mr Blair seized on remarks by the Chancellor last Thurs-

day, in which he ruled out a referendum on the 1996 Maastricht review conference, and compared that with Mr Major's stance, repeated yesterday, of leaving the option open. Mr Major, determined not to be outflanked on Mr Blair's big day, hit back, saying that Labour under Mr Blair would slavishly follow whatever Europe said.

The first encounter between the two leaders began quietly with Mr Blair praising Mr Major's Northern Ireland initiative, but the truce soon ended.

Last Thursday Mr Clarke said a referendum was a "very strange way to run a modern industrial state" and said he would not be prepared to submit a deal to a plebiscite.

Mr Blair asked Mr Major whether Mr Clarke spoke for the Government. Mr Major dead-baited: "At this moment no one knows what may be at issue in the EU inter-governmental conference in 1996. The question of a referendum on any issue does not arise and very probably will not arise."

Mr Blair retorted that Mr Clarke took one view, Michael Portillo another, and the Prime Minister "hovers between the two". He added: "A divided government is a weak government and a weak government is no good for Britain."

Mr Major retorted that Mr Blair would "slavishly follow whatever Europe says. That is not a credible position for any government in this country."

The majority opinion in the Commons was that the encounter was a score-draw.

See denial, page 9
Peter Brookes, page 16

Village church bells set off a bureaucratic ding-dong

By ANDREW PIERCE

THE bells of a 13th-century country church that have rung for 700 years may fall victim to legislation designed to curb excessive noise.

The eight bells of St John the Baptist Church at Tunstall, Kent, have summoned the faithful since medieval times, but now there is a threat to the future of the bellingers. After a solitary complaint from an anonymous resident, the full weight of local authority bureaucracy has been brought to bear.

Acting under the powers of the Environmental Protection Act, the town hall is monitoring the sound of the bells. An environmental health inspec-

tor interrupted a Saturday morning demonstration by visiting bellingers to complain about the noise.

The bellingers were within ten minutes of completing a full three-hour peal when he arrived. When the inspector was assured that the peal was almost over, he retreated and allowed them to continue.

The 17-strong Tunstall Change-Ringing Society, the champions of Kent — they have even beaten Canterbury Cathedral — had thought that the matter was forgotten until a letter arrived from the environmental health department of Swale Borough Council. The letter was to advise me that there had been a complaint about the noise and duration of a peal. I was astonished," the Rev David Matthiae, the rector, said.

"I am saddened that someone objects so much to a sound that most people find uplifting, beautiful and quintessentially English. I am sad this person has chosen to remain anonymous and will not talk to me directly about it."

Two years ago the rector decided to restrict the ringing of full three-hour peals to four times a year on Saturday mornings, after a similar solitary complaint. The bellingers practise once a week, on a Friday, and the only other time the bells are rung is before services on Sundays and on occasions such as weddings.

Mr Philip Payne, the council's senior environmental health officer, said: "When the legislation was drafted I don't think it was intended for church bells. But we have to

respond if the bells are deemed to be breaching the peace."

"It would be preferable if the complaint was sorted out between the vicar and the person concerned, but complainants are entitled to assistance," he added. "Three hours is a long time to listen to belling when you are trying to have a lie-in on a Saturday morning."

There will be a temporary respite while the bells are being recast in the near future. "When they come back," Enna Cundiff, the bellingers' secretary, said, "you will be able to hear them for miles."



Matthiae: uplifting, beautiful sound



St John's: at centre of the noisy dispute

Threat to pensions of civil servants

By ROBERT MILLER

HUNDREDS of thousands of civil servants could face a major upheaval in the way in which their pensions are administered and possibly even how much they are paid in retirement.

Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, has hinted in a leaked letter, a copy of which has been seen by *The Times*, that his department was looking at the issue of personal pensions for civil servants.

In the letter to Jonathan Aitken, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, he said: "You should know that I have asked officials to look at the issue of portable/personal pension schemes given the changes in Civil Service careers, post the White Paper."

The Government intends shortly to lay a statutory instrument before Parliament to enable outside contractors to bid for the administration of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). This is in spite of the fact that a 1992 report from the Government's Efficiency Unit said that the system was "as good as" anything the private sector could offer. Mr Heseltine said he welcomed the opportunity to contract out the administration.

At present the pensions, many of which are funded entirely out of the public purse with no contributions from individuals, have long been the envy of less well-off workers in the private sector. Most are index-linked.

Privatisation plan, page 25

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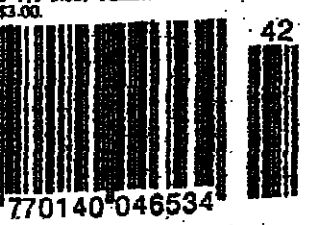
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Unitarian Church knew of trainee's past but is worried at exam cheating

Student plagiarist is minister who strangled his wife

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE Oxford University student stripped of his theology degree last week is a church minister who strangled his wife in front of his 12-year-old daughter, it was disclosed yesterday.

The Rev Tom Sanders, 54, is only the third person this century to suffer the public humiliation of having his name published as a cheat in the *Oxford University Gazette*. He had copied parts of a master's thesis from earlier work.

The scandal has cast doubt over the future of Mr Sanders, a minister at John Founds Memorial Church (Unitarian) in Portsmouth since 1991. Mr Sanders trained for the ministry between 1989 and 1991 at Manchester College, Oxford, after serving 11 months of a three-year sentence for the manslaughter of his wife Sue in November 1986.

Matthew Smith, the Unitarian Church's national spokesman, said it had known of Mr

Sanders's conviction when accepting him into training for the ministry. "Part of the religious message is giving people the opportunity of a new start," he said.

But Mr Smith said the church was treating the matter of Mr Sanders's plagiarism seriously and had the power to remove him. "A decision has already been made but we cannot comment until he has been notified."

Mrs Sanders was strangled with a rope in front of her daughter, Gayle, in the garden at the couple's home in Folkestone, Kent. They were divorcing after a 20-year marriage and Mr Sanders had earlier that day heard he had lost a custody battle for Gayle. He left his wife's body tied to the banisters before driving to the local police station to give himself up, saying: "I've killed her, I've killed her."

At the 1987 trial at Maidstone Crown Court, Mr Sanders pleaded guilty to

manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. He told the court that he was depressed and had intended to commit suicide immediately after killing his wife.

In June last year Gayle won a court order to keep her father away after she alleged that he had kept trying to see her and had forced his way into her home in Canterbury. At the time, Gayle said: "My father frightens and threatens me and I want it to stop."

Gayle said in an interview that she had repeated nightmares, reliving her mother's death: "She called me, three times she called to me 'Gayle, get the police', I was screaming. They were between me and the phone. He was strangling her. There was an orange rope. I heard her dying words. She said: 'You murderer, you murderer'."

While serving his sentence, Mr Sanders, a PE teacher and a former goalkeeper with Charlton Athletic Football Club, turned to religion and decided to try for the ministry on his release. He was accepted for a place on the two-year training course at Manchester College, Oxford.

While at Oxford, he also studied for a masters degree in theology at the neighbouring Westminster College, receiving the award in 1992. However, a student subsequently claimed that parts of his 20,000-word thesis had been copied from two earlier theses submitted by students at two unnamed universities in 1984 and 1986.

An inquiry by the university proctors found evidence of plagiarism and Congregation, the university's parliament, agreed on Tuesday last week to withdraw the award. Mr Sanders's name was subsequently published in the *Gazette* and a decree was posted in Oxford's examination schools. Dr Kenneth Wilson, Westminster's principal, yesterday described the events as a "wretched affair".

Mr Sanders, who remarried last year, was not at his home behind the church yesterday. Neighbours of the minister, however, spoke of their surprise at his plagiarism. Richard Bird, who works at the neighbouring Church of England Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Housing Association,

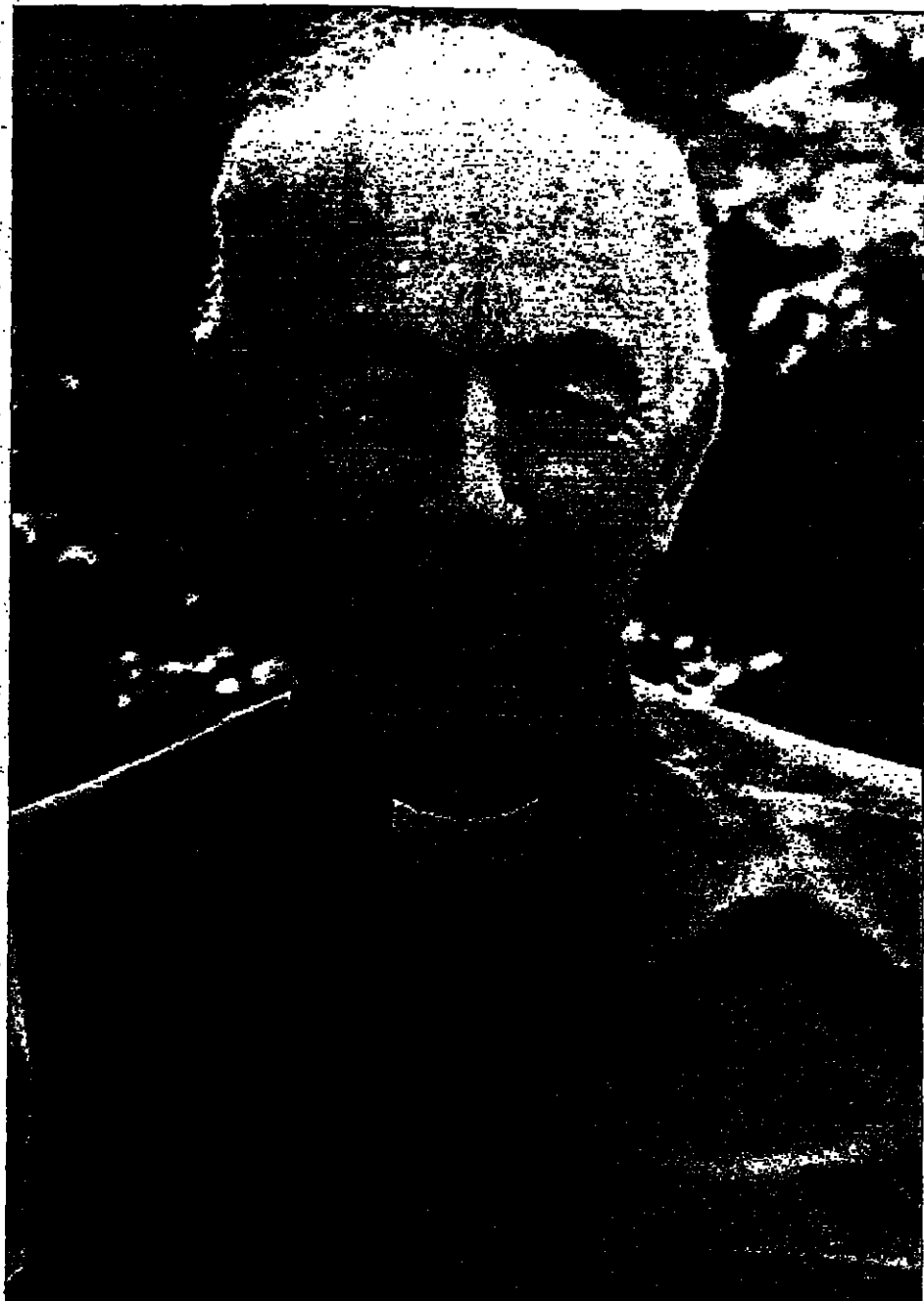
described Mr Sanders as a popular local figure. "Everyone knew about his past ... but he had made the church into a very popular place. It was a real surprise to hear that he had been accused of plagiarism," he said. "The church is enormously busy especially in the summer."

Matthew Lewis, 46, another neighbour, said: "He is a very cheerful fellow and will stop and have a chat. It is a shock to hear about this. It would be very sad if it affected his

position at the church because he has made it into a very popular one."

The Unitarian Church is a non-conformist church, which rejects the doctrine of the Trinity. It has about 250 congregations in Britain.

Mr Sanders joined Charlton Athletic in 1956, turning professional in August 1958. He was given a free transfer 13 months later, having made 64 appearances for the reserves, midweek and colts sides but never played in the first team.



The Rev Tom Sanders, a Unitarian Church minister in Portsmouth since 1991



Sanders and his first wife Sue at their wedding. He admitted her manslaughter, serving 11 months' jail

Pupil on murder charge wrote of wanting to 'live and let die'

By RICHARD DUCE

AN INSIGHT into the tortured mind of an A-level student who allegedly plotted the murder of a stranger was revealed yesterday in a letter read to an Old Bailey jury.

The letter by Richard Elsey, 19, reveals he had become preoccupied with danger, an obsession which is alleged to have culminated in the decision with Jamie Petrolini, 19, a fellow student, to murder a motorist. The letter, written to another student Tina Dutt, also shows a young man struggling to find his identity and grieving for a sister he lost in a car accident.

One section of the letter reads: "I have become an animal with only one thing on my mind ... to live and let die ... Danger is my soul's food now instead of happiness."

Miss Dutt, with whom Mr Elsey was said to be infatuated, told the court yesterday that she had believed his claim that he was a second lieutenant with the Parachute Regiment who went on army manoeuvres at the weekend when away from the Modes Study Centre, a crammer in Oxford.

She told how Mr Elsey, a former grammar school pupil at Dr Challoner's in Buckinghamshire, once explained away two scars on his neck and hand as the result of being hit by blank bullets.

She said Mr Elsey had become close friends with Mr

Petrolini and the latter agreed to have regular fitness training, believing that Mr Elsey could help him join the Army. "I would say Richard was the most dominant in the friendship."

Miss Dutt said Mr Elsey handed her the letter last year. It began: "The light inside me is dying. My soul is dying somewhere half to hell. Nothing seems worth living for. I'm not a boy. I'm a machine that lives. No feelings."

David Calvert-Smith, for the prosecution, alleges that Mr Elsey persuaded Mr Petrolini that as part of an initiation test to get into the Parachute Regiment or the SAS they had to travel to London to kill someone.

The court has been told that their victim was Mohammed el-Sayed, 44, who was waiting in his car at a junction in Bayswater on January 14 when the students climbed into the vehicle and that Mr Petrolini stabbed him dead with a commando knife.

Mr Elsey, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and Mr Petrolini, a former pupil at Gordonstoun of Grantown-

on-Spey, Highlands, deny murder. Mr Petrolini has admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

The jury was shown video evidence of an incident which the prosecution claimed was an initiation test for Mr Petrolini. The court was told that both students posed as undercover CID officers during a visit to the Golden Horse Shoe casino in Bayswater.

Philip Nunn, the casino manager, said the two teenagers claimed to be investigating intimidation of local businessmen. He did not believe them and asked to see their warrant cards. Both then left.

The jury was told that in January the pair were planning "their next dare" - what one might call the ultimate dare - which was a murder. In a "life book" Mr Elsey gave him for Christmas, Mr Petrolini wrote down different ways of carrying out the murder.

One method read: "Behind, hand over mouth, dagger grip, heart once, hold until dead."

Dr Ian Hill, the pathologist who examined Mr el-Sayed, from Hornsey, north London, said that he had been stabbed 15 times. Dr Hill said that the victim had been stabbed 12 times in the chest, twice in the throat and once in the arm.

The trial continues.



Richard Elsey wrote to Tina Dutt: "I have become an animal with only one thing on my mind"

Passenger admits ignoring cries

By KATE ALDERSON

A PASSENGER on a crowded train ignored calls for help from two teenage girls who were being held down and allegedly molested by a group of youths, he told a court yesterday.

Yusuf Sidat said he had stepped over the girls after listening to their cries for four minutes without offering assistance. "The two girls were both on the floor, each with two or three boys on top of them," he said.

"The boys were fondling the girls' breasts and touching them between the legs. They were struggling against the boys and shouting 'Help! Help!'"

Mr Sidat gave evidence at South Sefton Youth Court in Bootle, Merseyside, where four youths from the Dingle and Toxteth areas, aged between 14 and 16, have denied indecently assaulting two girls. The girls, both

aged 14, and a female friend aged 15 who accompanied them allege the attack took place on a Southport to Liverpool train in May. On Monday, charges against two other boys were dismissed for lack of evidence.

Mr Sidat told the court he had thought nothing of the incident. "I just wanted to get to my seat so I jumped over the girls' legs to get past. Looking back, it seems more serious now but at the time I thought they might be the boys' girlfriends." He added: "I did feel like intervening but I was scared that the girls would have told me where to go. There were lots of younger, stronger men than me on the train who could have helped."

A 14-year-old passenger told the court he had seen a gang of boys harassing two teenage girls. He had seen one of the boys grab a girl around the chest and pull her into a seat. He said

the boys' hands "were everywhere" and that despite protests from the girls, the boys kept laughing. Under cross-examination from the defence, he said: "It wasn't really violence, more like horseplay. The girl didn't desperately need assistance and there was a policeman on the platform."

The three girls got off the train at Blundellsands and reported the incident to Peter Mahoney, a British Rail attendant. Mr Mahoney told the court: "One girl cried as she told of how three boys held her down by the throat and tried to take off her jeans. The second girl had red marks on her neck and she claimed the boys felt her breasts."

The court heard that the train was searched at the next station, Seaford, but the group of youths managed to prise open the carriage doors and ran away before police arrived. The hearing continues.

Marchioness families win new inquest into collision

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

FAMILIES of 51 victims of the Marchioness riverboat disaster yesterday won their five-year fight to have a full inquest into the collision.

Dr John Burton, the West London coroner, said he could see no other way of helping the families other than reopening the inquiry into the 1989 disaster. The decision came after families of the victims and survivors presented new documents which challenged the findings of the original investigation.

Members of the Marchioness Action Group believe that the recent evidence casts doubt on the official recorded location of the collision between the two boats and calls into question the efficiency of the police operation.

Dr Burton told a packed room at West London Coroner's Court that he had "the greatest reservations" about ordering a new inquest. "I have the greatest misgivings. I think I may bitterly regret what I am about to say, but I can see no other way of helping the people but by saying I will hold an inquest."

It is the first time that an inquest of this size has been reopened but Dr Burton said families were being kept "at the height of concern, grief, anger and distress".

He added: "If I thought there was anything I could do to resolve the matter I would and I can see no other way but to order another inquest. I want it to be a proper inquest and not to be used for any other purpose than to gain information and not to promulgate misinformation."

Outside the court, campaigners who have fought for a new inquest welcomed the announcement but said they still needed "sponsors" to help continue the fight, as they were not eligible for legal aid for the resumed inquest.

Margaret Lockwood-Croft, whose son Shaun, 20, died

after the dredger *Bowbelle* collided with the *Marchioness*, a pleasure boat, on the night of August 20, 1989, said she was "absolutely delighted".

"I'm disappointed that it has taken five years for such a decision to be made and our troubles do not end here. We have to find sponsors to help us foot the estimated £250,000 per week in legal fees."

"Top pop stars have in the past supported good causes and I would think that 51 young lives are a good cause, but neither individually nor collectively do we have the sort of money that we would need to fight on."

Linda Ali-Hunt, whose only child Julie was among the victims, also welcomed the decision. "Now that the truth and the facts are going to come out the families will be able to start living their lives again."

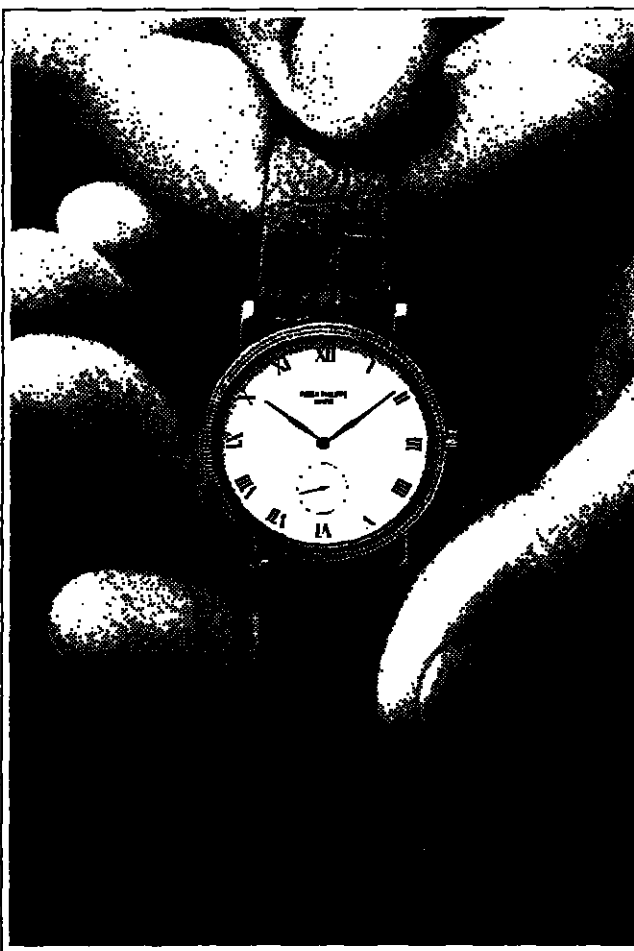
"I am absolutely delighted that at last the facts can be put forward in open court and the families do not have to search around for information about how their loved ones died."

Daniel Brennan, QC, representing 33 of the victims' families and 13 survivors, said emotions were running high in the case and that issues needed to be "fully, fairly, and fearlessly investigated".

He told the court: "In every other such disaster there has been a public inquiry. Not in this case. The public want this investigation to make sure it doesn't happen again. The supposition that it won't, that these things won't happen, has been graphically shown to be wrong by the ferry disasters."

Iain Philpott, spokesman for the Marchioness Action Group, said: "I genuinely believe that history will be rewritten because of this decision and that once and for all the truth of what happened on that night five years ago will be told."

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Awards too low to cover physical and financial suffering

Accident victims condemn inadequate compensation

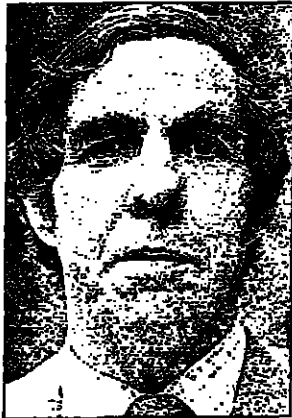
By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

DAMAGES awarded to accident victims are often too low to compensate adequately for their long-term financial and physical suffering, according to a survey published yesterday.

The study, by the Law Commission, also found that some accident victims had to borrow money or use savings to cover expenses because of delays of several years in receiving damages. When victims did receive their award, most were at first satisfied with "what appears to be a substantial sum of money".

But "this satisfaction drains away over time when the reality of long-term ill-effects and reduced capacity for work bite". Forty per cent of those questioned said the damages did not cover losses and expenses they had already incurred and about 30 per cent believed it would not cover future expenses.

Many victims were unprepared for the long-term impact of their injuries on their ability to work and felt their awards



Sir Henry: evidence of insufficient damages

did not compensate them properly for loss of earnings. Eighty-eight per cent of those awarded more than £100,000 did not return to work.

Sir Henry Brooke, the High Court judge who chairs the Law Commission, said: "There is evidence shown by this report that in certain classes of case, compensation is not high enough." The report by Professor Hazel Genn of the Faculty of Laws, Univer-

sity College London, was based on interviews with 761 victims of accidents at work or on the road who had received £5,000 or more, or their relatives: 107 of the accidents were fatal.

Professor Genn said: "Most people thought they should have had about double what they did receive." They believed that damages could not compensate for what they had suffered but "felt strongly that an amount of money should be given in recognition of the pain and suffering in their own lives and that of their families".

The survey found that victims did not squander their awards. Most commonly the money was invested. Four or more years after the award, 40-50 per cent of those with damages of more than £20,000 had more than half of the money left. Money that was spent was used chiefly to improve or maintain quality of life and living conditions.

But the report gave warning of victims being vulnerable to pressure to be generous with their damages. Professor Genn said: "An award is not

like winning the pools, though it may be seen as such."

Nearly 28 per cent of those awarded up to £20,000 had to wait more than four years for their money, compared with 71 per cent of those receiving more than £100,000. Up to a third had to borrow money or accumulated debts as a result of their accident. A quarter had to stop saving and half had to spend their savings to cover living expenses and the extra costs they faced.

The report says: "Delay extends the period of financial hardship suffered while accident victims wait for their money. It prolongs the period of anxiety and may increase the pressure to settle at an inadequate level."

One of the most striking findings, Professor Genn said, was the "significant burden of unpaid care" shouldered by relatives and friends. Fewer than one in ten victims spent their awards on private nursing care.

□ *Personal Injury Compensation: How Much is Enough?* (1994) (Law Commission No 225, HMSO; £21.85)



Josh Hall aboard his yacht, which has sunk in the South Atlantic



Solo race yachtsman rescued

By CATHERINE MILTON

A BRITISH yachtsman was rescued from his liferaft in the middle of the South Atlantic yesterday in an operation organised by the UK Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Falmouth. Josh Hall, 32, from Ipswich, whose yacht the *Garmore Investment Managers* was holed on the first leg of the solo round-the-world BOC Challenge, was picked up by another competitor, the *Newcastle Australia*.

Mike Collier, a coast-guard officer, said: "The Brazilians didn't do anything partly because we already were and they could not speak English. Anyway, we've got the best facilities in the world." Mr Hall said that he was "tired and dazed, but OK".

End duplication in fraud trials, top judge urges

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SERIOUS fraud cases could be tried by one court that was able to imprison people found guilty and to award damages to victims, a senior fraud judge suggested yesterday.

Lord Justice Henry, who tried Ernest Saunders in the Guinness affair, said criminal and civil proceedings could be heard at the same time. A form of "forensic one-stop shopping" would end costly duplication and waste.

Addressing a police conference on fraud, Lord Henry, now an appeal judge, said a criminal conviction was not conclusive evidence in a civil court, which imposes damages. He said that separate criminal and civil proceedings might be "logically very exquisite but I doubt it can last".

He told senior police officers, lawyers and commercial investigators at the Police Staff College in Bramshill, Hampshire, that the Security Exchange Commission in America was one example of what could be done, although the commission's draconian powers might not be acceptable in Britain. It did not carry out about prosecutions but it did work with prosecutors in a form of plea-bargaining.

Lord Henry, who heads the judicial training board, said that in 1992, fraud cost £5.5 billion compared with £500 million for burglary. However, the penalties for fraud remained light, he said. In 1992 there were only seven sentences of more than five years and only one, in ten, fraudsters received more than two years' imprisonment. Critics said cases took too

long, did not start on time, were not properly focused and were brought too late to be effective, he added. Fraud was being tried under a system intended for cases involving less paperwork, shorter hearings and the simple memory of witnesses.

He said that serious fraud was stretching the limits of the criminal justice system. "There is a risk that a system designed for other trials may be tested to destruction." Defences deployed smokecreens and filibustered. Prosecutors overloaded indictments.

Lord Henry said that a survey had shown 60 per cent of judges dealing with serious fraud favoured judges intervening to set time-limits on lawyers' submissions and speeches. He said 30 per cent of judges would also like to set time-limits on evidence.

He told his audience: "I hope we can look to a time when judges will be more interventionist. I don't believe that will be at the expense of fairness." He said that he and other judges continued to support trial by jury but he questioned whether jurors should deal with all cases, where imprisonment was an option.

Judges trying cases alone were accepted in a number of countries and jurisdictions. Australia and Canada offered defendants a choice of judge or jury and, he said, many chose judges, who gave reasons for conviction, which could provide the basis for an appeal, and they understood the finer points of an indictment. A jury would simply say yes or no.

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Jobs to
filled in
on Rover
pansion

should pay
up old car

THE TIMES
Prize Draw

HOW TO WIN

1,400 jobs to be filled in £1.5bn Rover expansion

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

ROVER is to recruit more than 1,400 new workers as part of a £1.5 billion expansion. Exports have this year helped to push output to record levels.

The workers are needed to increase production of Rover cars and Land Rovers by at least 10 per cent next year. The company also promised a series of new models to spearhead the growth.

As Rover announced the new jobs yesterday, Vauxhall disclosed that it had asked 4,500 workers at its Luton plant in Bedfordshire to start overtime from next month to meet orders. The company is expecting production to be up by 20 per cent this year. In contrast, Ford, Britain's market leader, has just put its two main British assembly plants on short-time working for this month.

Most of the Rover jobs are needed at the big assembly plant at Longbridge near

Birmingham, which makes the Mini, Metro and Rover 200 and 400 models. About 150 jobs are being created at the company's body pressing plant at Swindon, Wiltshire.

Land Rover, which has already taken on 1,000 people this year, needs another 300 workers to increase output, particularly of its Discovery model. The Discovery assembly line was originally built to make 300 vehicles a week but is now turning out 1,500.

John Towers, Rover group's chief executive, said much of the growth was because of exports. "These new jobs are the result of Rover's continuing success in raising sales throughout the world. Next year will see further production developments and an expansion of our business into new and developing markets, underpinned by record levels of investment in both people and manufacturing," he said.

The expansion has been ordered by BMW, Rover's new owner, which wants the company to move into new markets, including the Far East. Rover will also relaunch its car range in the United States to add to the Land Rover vehicles already on sale there. Fears that BMW would fail to invest in Rover after the £300 million takeover in March have been swept away.

Five years ago, Rover exported 30 per cent of its cars and Land Rovers. Today that figure is 45 per cent and growing. Sales to Japan alone are up 20 per cent this year at 20,000 vehicles. Total Rover output is expected to top 500,000 vehicles this year, the highest for five years.



Towers: "Result of continuing success"

State 'should pay to scrap old cars'

By KEVIN EASON

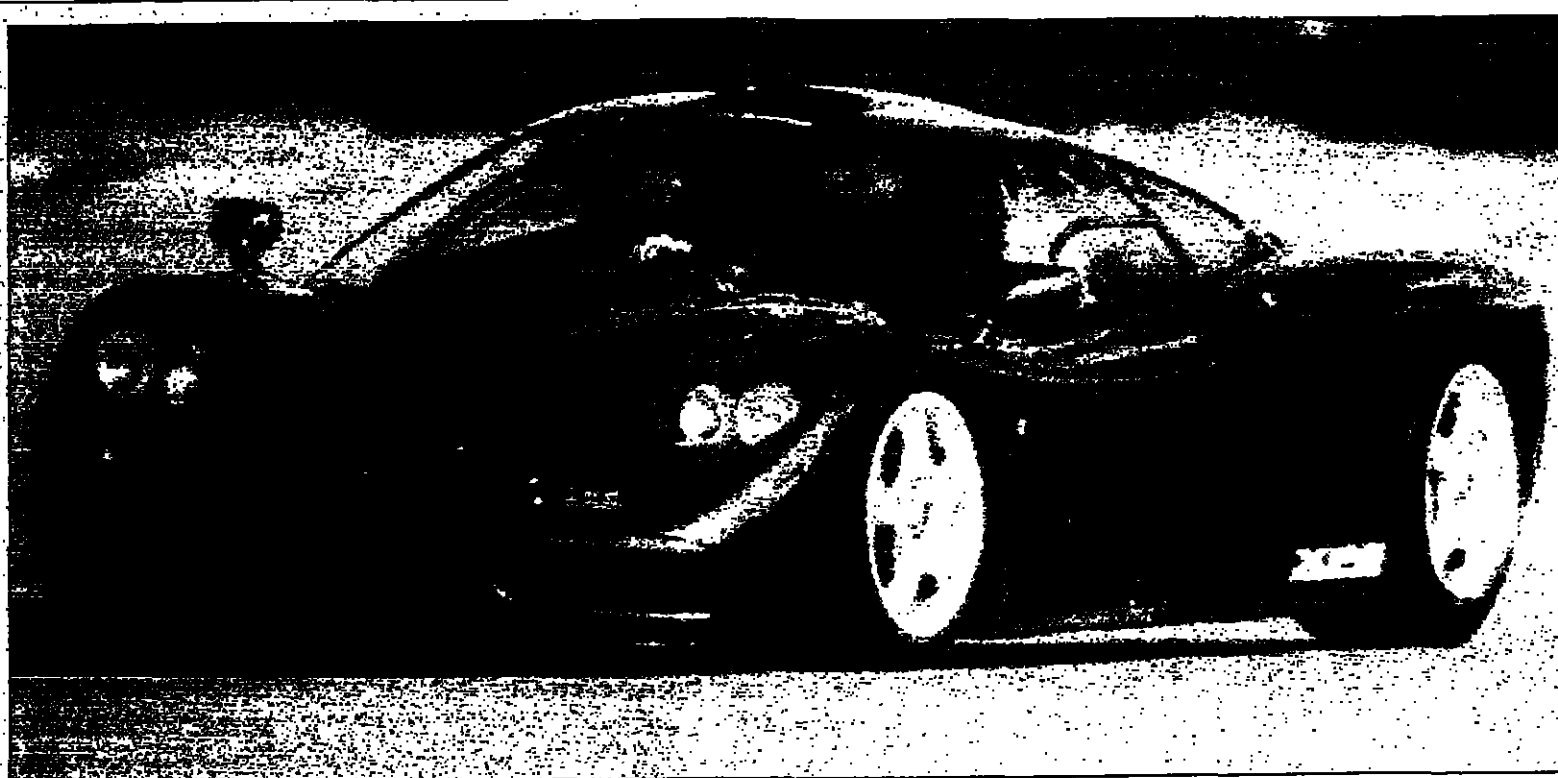
THE Government should pay motorists to scrap their old cars to improve air quality, the chairman of Ford Britain said yesterday.

Spain already offers £500 to owners of older cars to scrap them and France £600. Ian McAllister said that a similar scheme in Britain could combat growing vehicle pollution and improve car sales.

The suggestion comes a week before a Royal Commission on the Environment is due to report to the Government on air pollution. It is expected to recommend 100 measures to curb the car,

including a 10 per cent annual increase in the cost of petrol. However, the motor industry is worried that such swinging increases would hit motorists in rural areas, the elderly and handicapped who need their cars for transport, and business users who use cars for work.

Tests by the RAC show that just 10 per cent of cars, mainly old and badly maintained, cause half the toxic exhaust gases. Every new petrol car sold in Britain is equipped with a catalytic converter, which cuts exhaust emission by up to 90 per cent.



One of the McLaren F1 supercars, which can reach 250mph, going through its paces. But an accident forced the model out of the limelight

McLaren's £540,000 dream machine crashes out of show

By OUR MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE fastest road car in the world yesterday came to an abrupt halt around a lamp-post on its way to the British International Motor Show in Birmingham.

The handmade £540,000 McLaren F1, which is capable of 250mph, was being driven from the factory in Woking, Surrey, by David Bettany, a

McLaren employee, when it veered off the road in Addlestone. Mr Bettany escaped uninjured from the crumpled machine and witnesses said he appeared to be in despair.

A police spokesman said: "He looked like thunder. I haven't seen anyone looking so cheered off in a long time."

The accident left pride of place at Birmingham's National Exhibition

Centre to Aston Martin's new limited edition car, a comparative snip at £137,500 and a symbol of British motoring exclusively from its huge engine to the brass plate on the dashboard bearing the owner's name.

The new model has 10 per cent more power than even the most powerful of the current cars from the factory at Newport Pagnell in Buck-

inghamshire. It can rocket to more than 150mph thanks to its 5.3 litre V8 engine, with the driver seated in wood and leather luxury.

Only ten of the cars will be built, each in a dark metallic "British racing green" with light brown upholstery. The dashboard is in traditional elm with the owner's name engraved on a brass plate mounted on the fascia panel.

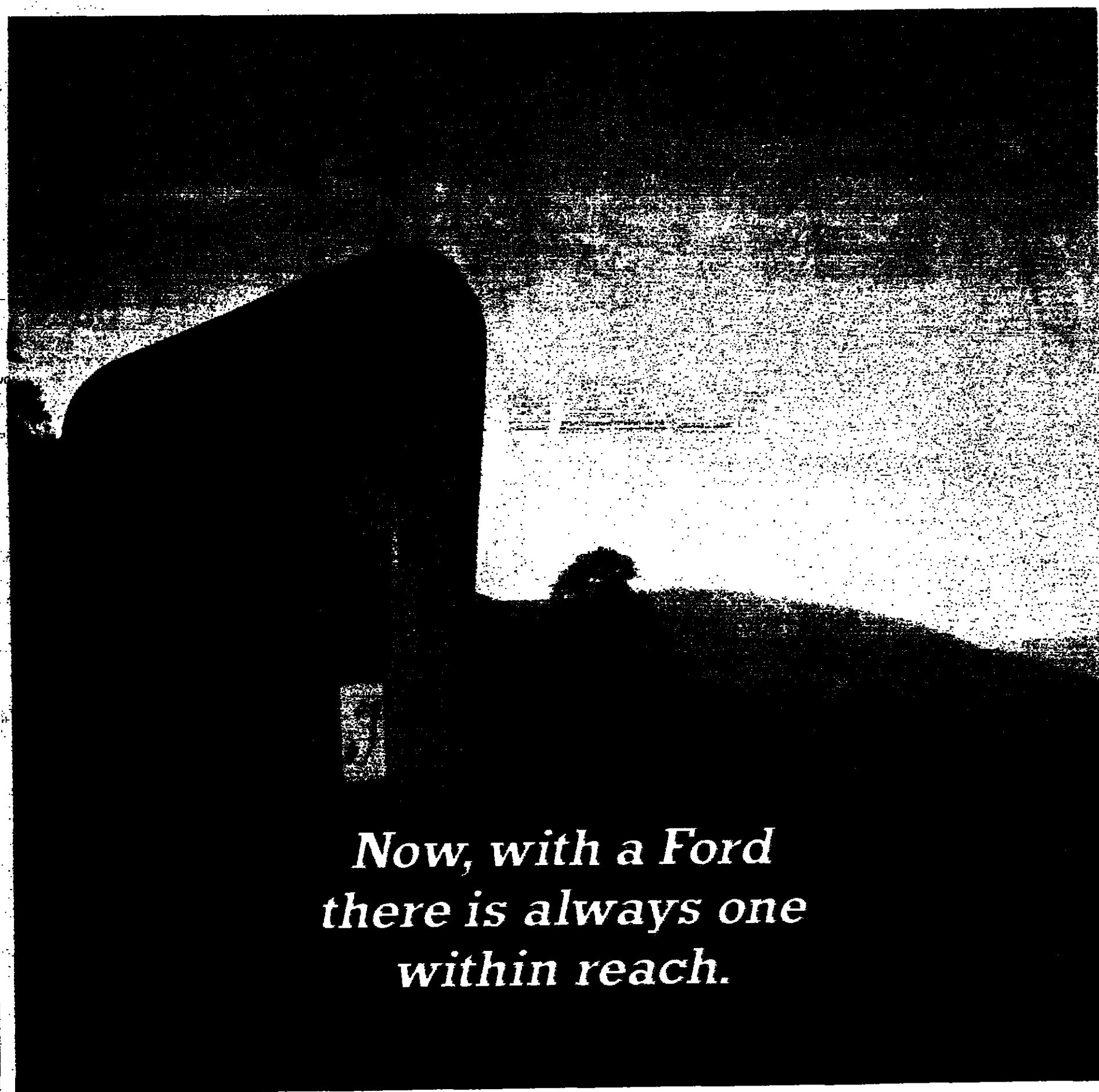
Deals and extras put £2,000 on family car

THE price of a family car could be cut by £2,000 if manufacturers abandoned big discounts to fleet buyers and stopped loading models with extra equipment, motor dealers claimed yesterday (Kevin Eason writes).

Alan Pulham, director of the National Franchised Dealers' Association, said that cutting prices was the best way to increase sales and car makers should drop offers such as free insurance and sun roofs.

His comments at the British International Motor Show at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham came minutes after Vauxhall said it would be tempting buyers with free mobile phones worth up to £500. The offer comes after a similar move by Ford last week. The deals are expected to appeal widely to company car buyers.

Mr Pulham said the so-called free offers had to be paid for and the private buyer bore an unfair proportion of the cost. "We believe that an average £10,000 family hatchback or saloon could be reduced by as much as £2,000," he said. "Car makers must change their ways and start asking realistic prices."



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away than your glove compartment. The network covers 98% of the British population so you can stay in touch when you are out in the car.

Choose to take the phone and you can take advantage of a special Ford call rate - just 20p a minute, including VAT, off-peak (all weekend, and 7pm to 8am Mondays to Fridays), and 50p a minute at other times. For details call 0800 111 222. We can't wait to get you on the phone.

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THE TIMES Lottery Prize Draw

21,000 National Lottery tickets to be won

Tickets for the National Lottery go on sale on Monday November 14, and with a top prize of £2m expected when the first draw takes place on Saturday November 19, lottery fever is starting to grip the nation. The Times, in association with The Sunday Times, is offering readers an additional chance to become overnight millionaires with our great lottery tickets prize draw.

We're offering you the chance to win up to 10,000 lottery tickets to be purchased on your behalf. Each has a one in 54 chance of winning a prize.

Our teams of ticket buyers will purchase 21,000 official lottery tickets on behalf of our winning readers with randomly generated numbers for entry into the November 19 prize draw.

Starting on October 8, and continuing over four weeks, we are publishing a total of 24 tokens. Collect 20 tokens and you can enter our prize draw twice. Collect all 24 from The Times and the 16 tokens which will appear in The Sunday Times and you can enter the draw four times.

FIRST PRIZE 10,000 £1 tickets, second prize 2,900 £1 tickets, third prize 1,000 £1 tickets
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HOW TO WIN

To enter the prize draw, simply collect 10 lottery tokens from The Times and The Sunday Times. The first token was printed in The Times on October 8 and further tokens are appearing each day in The Times and for the next two weeks in The Sunday Times, giving you a total of 40 tokens and enabling you to make four individual entries in our 21,000 lottery tickets prize draw. When you have collected 10 tokens send them on the form below. No purchase is necessary. Full terms and conditions will appear in The Sunday Times.



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Send completed form and tokens to: The Times/The Sunday Times Lottery Prize Draw, PO Box 224, Colindale, London NW9 1JL

Felling of limes casts shadow at Garsington Manor

By Andrew Pierce

THE owner of Garsington Manor, once a favourite haunt of the Bloomsbury group, was fined yesterday for chopping down two 70ft lime trees that helped to fire the imagination of the 1920s literary set.

An avenue of lime trees was planted at the Jacobean manor house during the First World War by its owner, then Lady Ottoline Morrell, a flamboyant hostess. She created the gardens that are now the venue for an annual three-week opera festival.

Virginia and Leonard Woolf, D. H. Lawrence, Bertrand Russell, T. S. Eliot and Lynton Strachey regularly spent weekends with Lady Ottoline at the Oxfordshire estate. They would sit in the avenue discussing their works.

Rosalind Ingrams, present owner of the listed estate, was yesterday fined £400 by Thames magistrates and ordered to pay £580 costs after admitting the unauthorised felling of two of the trees.

They were not subject to a preservation order but because the property is listed notice had to be given to the local authority. The council had six weeks to decide



Rosalind Ingrams, left, chopped down two diseased trees that were part of an avenue of lime trees at Garsington Manor enjoyed by Lady Ottoline Morrell and her guests



whether to allow it. No notice was given.

Mrs Ingrams, who turned the estate into a summer opera centre in 1991 with the backing of the writer John Mortimer and Sir Patrick Neill, QC, Warden of All Souls College, Oxford, last

night criticised the decision to prosecute. "I have planted more than 600 trees on the estate since we moved here 12 years ago. I love the trees. But these trees, which were an important feature for the Bloomsbury group, were diseased. I have no doubt Lady

Ottoline would have taken the same decision.

"She would have known exactly what to do. She would have chopped them down. There were no local authorities to contend with then. I don't think it was a necessary prosecution. It has been a

sobering experience." The court was told that Jean Kelly, who lives near by, saw the head gardener at Garsington chopping down the trees last May. She told her husband, a parish councillor, who reported it to the district council's forestry

officer, Andrew Shaw, for the defence, said that Mrs Ingrams was unaware of the procedures. "She is certainly not some sort of environmental criminal. I do not believe anyone can doubt her commitment to the natural environment," Mr Shaw

said that if Mrs Ingrams had followed the correct procedures "these two trees would have been felled because the local authority would have given permission to remove them". She has since agreed with the council that a number of other trees need to be

removed. Mrs Ingrams told the court: "I would like to express my regret for failing to follow the correct procedure. This was done unwittingly. Had they been healthy trees I would have applied. I did not realise it was the case for diseased trees."

Mrs Ingrams had acted on the advice of Roderick Nicholson, a forestry consultant, who described the lime trees, only three yards apart, as "beanpoles with fuzz on top".

Mr Nicholson said: "It hit me like a bolt from the blue that this was a fairly small garden and it was crisscrossed with lime trees. It is a pity that the first bit of sensible management of the gardens transgressed the letter of the law."

Gordon Shepherd, the chairman of the bench, said: "We do appreciate that this was only a technical breach but unfortunately this is the law you are required to follow."

Mrs Ingrams has lived at Garsington Manor for 12 years with her husband Leonard, brother of Richard Ingrams, a founder of *Private Eye*. He faces charges in December of obscenity in connection with the Garsington Manor. It is alleged that noise levels were too high during the opera season.

Thousands of troops fail Army shooting test, MPs disclose

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THOUSANDS of soldiers in the British Army cannot shoot straight, MPs discovered during an investigation of military training.

The Commons Defence Committee was disturbed to find that while infantry units performed well, nearly 5,000 soldiers in the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers failed the annual shooting test. There appeared to be no obvious penalties for failing the weapons test, although the most basic skill expected of all Army personnel was to be able "to shoot accurately and effectively", the MPs said in a report published yesterday.

Figures from the Ministry of Defence showed that 98 per cent of infantry soldiers passed the annual shooting test but 22 per cent of troops in the Royal Artillery and 22.6 per cent of Royal Engineers failed to hit the target as required. The reports said: "While the average pass rate for the whole Army of 86 per cent is acceptable, we are disturbed that, despite the perception that the introduc-

tion of the SASO rifle and its associated computerised training package should have made it easier to pass, a significant minority of soldiers in both [frontline] arms fail the annual shooting test."

Not enough soldiers were taking part in shooting competitions to improve their skills, the MPs said, although they acknowledged that operational demands on the Army were partly to blame. The MPs noted that the annual Tackle Skill Arms Competition, named after the man who sponsored the event, had become the preserve of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters (1 WFR), who won regularly.

"While we are much impressed by 1 WFR's maintenance of their sharp-shooting traditions, it would be regrettable were shooting competitions of this sort to be disregarded by the rest of the infantry or by the rest of the Army," the MPs said.

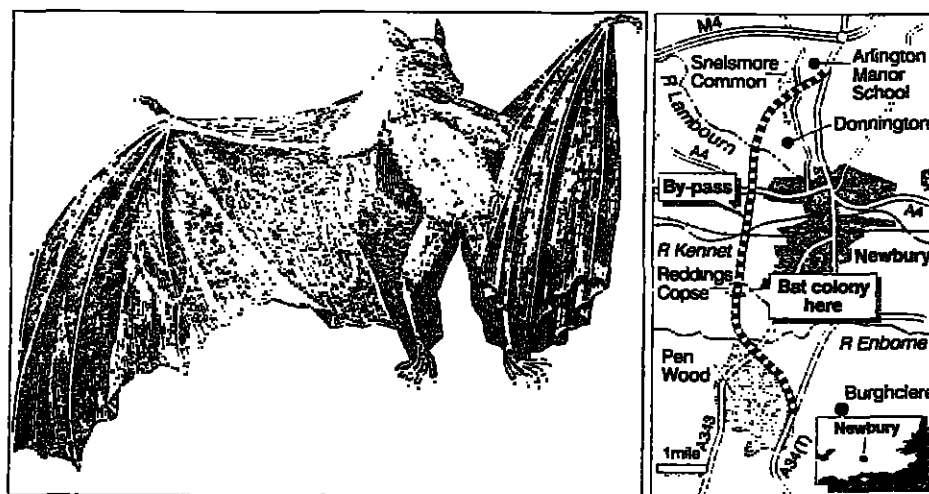
Soldiers who failed the annual test should be given extra tuition to improve their skills

and as many infantry units as possible should take part in competitions, the MPs said. All recruits to the RAF had to pass shooting tests as part of their basic training. About 80 per cent passed, the MPs said. The Royal Navy required only a minority of sailors to have shooting skills.

The MPs also emphasised the importance of maintaining physical fitness and were concerned that an increasing number of service jobs "seem to involve sedentary skills, particularly computer skills". The Army and RAF have compulsory basic fitness tests but the Royal Navy made its test voluntary last year after two sailors died.

The MPs said: "While we sympathise with the Royal Navy's difficulties... we cannot believe that in the course of a year it should be unduly difficult for most RN personnel to find an opportunity to run one and a half miles."

□ Military Training, Defence Committee Ninth Report (HMSO: £17)



Development of the Newbury bypass poses a threat to several types of bat

Trees used by rare bats felled for road scheme

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

THE ROOSTS of rare bats are being destroyed by contractors working on new road schemes as new European wildlife laws are introduced to protect such vital habitats.

Members of the Friends of the Earth, who are protesting against the Newbury bypass in Berkshire because it runs through the nesting sites of another rare animal, the dormouse, said yesterday that trees were being marked and felled in the Reddings Cope area. The trees are believed to

be homes to all but two of Britain's 14 species of bats. The two types of horseshoe bat do not roost in trees. The Highways Agency, part of the Department of Transport, confirmed that trees were being felled. "We are removing the habitats where bats are known to be roosting to ensure they are not damaged when roadworks start and to give them a chance to find new homes," a spokeswoman said.

Tony Juniper, senior habitats campaigner of Friends of

the Earth, described the action that the group had taken as a disgrace. Lawyers for the group yesterday wrote to Dr Brian Mahwinny, the Transport Secretary, claiming the felling was unlawful under the new European Species and Habitats Directive. They have threatened an injunction unless work is halted.

Eleven species of bats are in danger of extinction in Britain from destruction of their habitats and roosting sites in the past 50 years.

Playmates left girl freezing to death

A GIRL aged five who was stoned and kicked by her playmates in Trondheim, Norway, had frozen to death while lying injured in the snow, a post-mortem examination showed yesterday.

"A combination of factors contributed to the death but according to the preliminary autopsy report, the actual cause of death was extreme hypothermia," Harald Moholt, of the Trondheim police, said. Silje Marie Redegard was found dead on Saturday in a playground that was covered by the first snow of the season. She had been beaten, kicked and stoned by the three 6-year-old boys she had been playing with, according to local newspaper reports.

Under Norwegian law, children aged under 15 cannot be charged with murder. A police spokesman said the matter would be dealt with by social welfare authorities.

Beate Redegard, the girl's mother, said yesterday that she forgave the three boys. "I cannot hate or bear a grudge against small children. They cannot have understood what they did. I forgive those who killed my daughter."

Forces man to head Kirk

The Rev James Harkness, Chaplain General to the Armed Forces, is to be the next Moderator of the Church of Scotland. Mr Harkness, 58, an Army chaplain for more than 30 years, is due to retire from his present position at the end of the year.

£1.5m damages

A woman whose life was wrecked by a hospital blunder at the age of five was awarded £1.5 million agreed damages in the High Court. Jane Clark, 21, of Stafford, was starved of oxygen while being treated for a rare throat condition at Stafford General Infirmary in 1977 and suffered brain damage.

Off-beat officer

A police superintendent who suggested painting cells pink to calm inmates has resigned after 30 years claiming he was forced to resign because his off-beat ideas embarrassed the chief constable. Peter Bennett, 49, is seeking an independent inquiry into his treatment by the West Yorkshire force.

Lost and found

British drivers are more likely to have their cars stolen than other European motorists but the chance of getting their cars back is higher than in many other countries. A survey by Eagle Star shows 2 of every 1,000 cars were stolen last year, 65 per cent of which were recovered.

ITN criticised

The Independent Television Commission has criticised ITN for invading the privacy of a psychiatric patient by filming him in hospital without his consent. The man was not named but might have been recognised, the commission said.

MoD awards

The Ministry of Defence said almost £30 million in compensation has been paid to 2,522 women who were forced to leave the armed forces when they became pregnant between 1978 and 1990. Some 2,000 cases are waiting to be heard.

M-way cows

Two Glasgow men were seriously injured when their Volkswagen Polo car hit a herd of stray cows on the M8 near the Newhouse Interchange. The condition of both men was said to be serious but stable in hospital last night. Five cows were killed.

Healthy profits on low-fat foods

By Kathryn Knight

FOOD manufacturers are discouraging consumers from eating a healthier diet by charging up to 40 per cent more for low-fat versions of their products, a report claims today.

The report also criticises manufacturers for using "confusing" and "misleading" labelling terms and calls for new regulations controlling nutrition claims. The Food Commission, an independent consumer watchdog, found that prices of some reduced and low-fat foods in leading supermarkets were between 5 per cent and 40 per cent higher than for equivalent foods with a high fat content.

The survey found that a Findus Lean Cuisine frozen meal was 40 per cent more

expensive than the regular Findus chicken lasagne, and Tesco Healthy Eating Burgers were 24p more expensive than the brand's standard burgers. McVitie's lower fat Digestive and Kraka Wheat biscuits cost 5 per cent and 33 per cent more respectively, while Wall's charged 33 per cent more for their lean pork and beef sausages.

Peta Cottee, author of the report, said: "Charging a premium for healthier foods cannot simply be explained by different ingredients. We found a few companies, such as Marks and Spencer, and Ambrosia, offering ready meals and desserts in both regular and low-fat versions at the same price."

The report also criticises use of misleading or redundant words such as

"lite" and low-fat, which it says often have no specific meaning. "Manufacturers are not breaking the law but we feel they are taking advantage of the lack of regulation over claims," Sue Dibb, of the Food Commission, said.

Dr David Richardson, of Nestlé UK, the owners of Findus, said the report's claims were misleading. "There is a demand for a wider range of lower fat foods and we undertake a continuing programme of work to explore the scope for fat reductions. In some cases, recipe costs increase, in other the cost is reduced, in many the cost is the same."

A Tesco spokeswoman said: "Extra processing costs and more expensive ingredients can contribute to increased prices."

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Celtic coin found by metal detector

By Kathryn Knight

AN AMATEUR archaeologist with a metal detector has unearthed a rare Celtic coin in a Gloucestershire field. It is believed to be only the second of its kind to be discovered in this country.

Martin Sterry, 42, of Mitcheldean, found the tiny bronze coin as he searched fields near his home with a metal detector. He initially did not realise its value, but was encouraged to have the coin examined by fellow members of the Dean Archaeological society.

He sent it to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. Dr C. E. King, of the coins and medals department, told him that the coin, which is about the size of a modern five pence piece, originated from Gaul. Only 19 similar ones have been found around Europe and only one in Britain, in the Lincolnshire area.

Dr Andrew Burnett, keeper of coins and medals at the

British Museum, said: "If it is only the second of its type to be found, then it could quite possibly fetch a few thousand pounds at auction."

However, Mr Sterry says he will not sell it. Peter Morris, secretary of the British Numismatic Trade Association, said: "It is particularly unusual if the coin's origins are in a different country. This could mean there was a previously unknown migratory tribe."

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P E E C H E

Drug-resistant strain of salmonella virus linked to take-aways

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A DANGEROUS new strain of salmonella that is resistant to five antibiotics is spreading quickly, according to government scientists.

The bug, which can be fatal, infected 1,200 people last year, a fourfold increase in two years. Most had eaten take-away sausages, burgers or chicken and many victims required treatment in hospital.

In a study of 83 cases of infection with the bug, researchers at the government-run Public Health Laboratory Service reported ten deaths and 35 involving admission to hospital. They say in the current issue of *Communicable Disease Report*, which is sent to all health authorities, that the hospitalisation rate is twice that for other salmonella infections and the death rate ten times as high.

The organism, a drug-resistant strain of *Salmonella typhimurium* DT104, was first identified ten years ago but the number of cases remained below 100 until 1990, when the

number of cases suddenly started to rise. The researchers say the routine use of antibiotics for growth promotion and sickness prevention in farm animals "may contribute to the development of organisms resistant to antibiotics".

The study shows most cases of infection were linked with foods bought from take-aways, restaurants and bakeries and might be caused by undercooked meat. An unidentified brand of meat paste was also implicated. Some victims had had recent contact with sick animals.

Cases were reported from all regions of the country except Oxford but were concentrated in the North and South West. Symptoms included diarrhoea, vomiting, stomach pains and fever.

A spokeswoman for the Public Health Laboratory Service said 700 cases of the strain had been reported in the first half of this year and the number was still increasing. "Although the antibiotic resis-

tance is important, the vast bulk of cases will not need treatment. For most sufferers it is an unpleasant but self-limiting illness."

There are 30,000 reported cases of salmonella infections a year, of which 2 per cent require hospital admission. Between 50 and 60 people die of the infections each year. More than a hundred people were affected by an outbreak of food poisoning caused by a virulent form of the bacterium *E. coli* in Scotland. One third were admitted to hospital, some with haemolytic uraemic syndrome, which causes blood in the urine and can lead to kidney damage.

The outbreak last May was linked with pasteurised milk bought from a local dairy. The organism, a verotoxinogenic *E. coli*, was responsible for a similar outbreak linked with milk in Sheffield last year and for one linked with a McDonald's hamburger restaurant in Preston, Lancashire.



The numbers of herons have dropped below 3,000 twice in the past 60 years

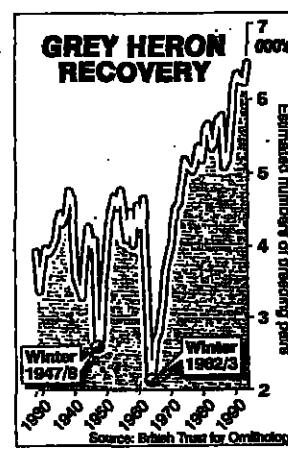
Mild winters boost number of herons

THE number of grey herons in England and Wales has reached a high point, mainly because of a succession of mild winters (Michael Hornsby writes). There are now 6,500 breeding pairs, three times more than in the mid-1960s, according to the British Trust for Ornithology.

The trust's annual heron census, which began in 1923,

is the longest-running survey of any bird species in Europe. Numbers have dropped below 3,000 pairs on two occasions in the past 60 years and herons were affected by the heavy use of organo-phosphorous pesticides.

Steve Carter, a scientific officer with the trust, said: "Anglers and fish farmers have become much more tolerant of herons."



Woman died after barbecue explosion

A PREGNANT woman was set alight in an explosion when she poured methylated spirits on to a barbecue, an inquest was told yesterday. Susan Guest, 30, a bank clerk, died in hospital six weeks later, never having held her newborn son Franklin, who was delivered by Caesarean section.

Mrs Guest had poured the meths onto smouldering charcoal embers in the barbecue in an attempt to light it. Paul Forrest, the Bristol coroner, was told. There was an explosion and her clothes caught fire as her children, Karina, 5, and Calvin, 1, watched from a playpen in their garden in Downend, Bristol.

Fire officer Randolph Pearson, in a statement to the coroner, said it was likely that a vapour cloud had formed from the spirits and enveloped Mrs Guest. He believed the smouldering embers ignited the vapourised meths with considerable force.

The inquest was told that Richard Kembery, a neighbour, rushed to aid Mrs Guest on hearing her screams. He found her in the hall trying to phone for help, having doused the flames in her children's paddling pool. Mr Kembery carried her upstairs to the bathroom, where he bathed her injuries until an ambulance arrived 20 minutes later and took her to the city's Frenchay Hospital. She was treated for burns to her arms, legs, neck and back.

Franklin was born, weighing 3lb, two weeks later. He was critically ill for some time but has returned home. Mrs Guest died six weeks after the accident, which occurred on July 18. The injuries to her arms prevented her from holding Franklin. His photograph remained by her bed. Her husband John, 38, a scaffolder, was there when she died.

Recording a verdict of accidental death, Mr Forrest said Mrs Guest died from pneumonia due to severe burns.

Diligent PC may lose job

A policeman charged with drink-driving after being called out to an accident while off-duty could lose his job after being fined £350 and banned from driving for a year.

Colleagues persuaded PC Ivan Jackson, 48, of Hunningdon, to attend the crash because no one else was available. Peterborough magistrates were told. He was arrested at the scene. A Cambridgeshire Police inquiry will decide whether he keeps his job.

TA man charged

An unnamed Territorial Army soldier has been charged with manslaughter after the death of Private Peter Waldron, 28, of The King's Regiment, who was shot at a TA depot in Liverpool last month.

Sweet pint

Chocolate-flavoured beer goes on sale today. Fuggles Chocolate M&M contains essence of cocoa and "chocolate barley", roasted for a chocolate-cocoa flavour. It will be sold by Whitbread.

Nose bitten off

A man had his nose bitten off inside a food store. The 25-year-old victim was followed into the shop at Shiremoor, Tyneside, after a dispute outside. Two men are being questioned.

Tourist death

A Fiji security guard was charged with murdering Peter Charles, 60, a British tourist formerly of Dagenham, east London, who died after a fall at a hotel in Fiji.

Bogus visitors

Parents were warned to be on their guard after two women posing as social workers made two bogus visits in Stoneycroft, Liverpool.

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KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Guernsey win

The Guernsey international tournament which started this week can boast a formidable line-up that includes the Grandmaster Julian Hodgson, an English Olympic team member and former British champion, the former Yugoslav grandmaster Bogdan Lalic and his wife, Susan (the former Susan Arkell), the top board for the English women's Olympic team. In the second round she won with a sparkling attack against the Dutch player Wessels.

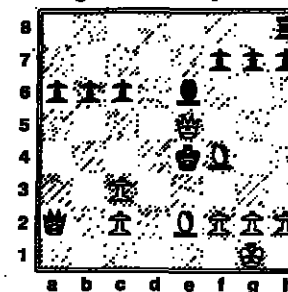
White: Susan Lalic
Black: C Wessels
Guernsey, October 1994

Scotch Game

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 1 e4 | e5 |
| 2 Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3 d4 | exd4 |
| 4 Nxd4 | Qh4 |
| 5 Nc3 | Bb4 |
| 6 Nxb5 | Ba5 |
| 7 Be2 | a6 |
| 8 Nc4 | Qxc4 |
| 9 Nc6 | Qxc6 |
| 10 O-O | Bxc3 |
| 11 bxc3 | Qd5 |
| 12 Qe1 | Ba6 |
| 13 Bf4 | Q-O-O |
| 14 Rd1 | Qa5 |
| 15 Rxd8+ | Kxd8 |

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 16 Qd2+ | Kc8 |
| 17 Qd4 | Nf6 |
| 18 Qa7 | Nd7 |
| 19 Bb1 | Nb6 |
| 20 Bc3 | Qxc2 |
| 21 Rxb6 | Qxb6 |
| 22 Qa8+ | Kd7 |
| 23 Qxd7+ | Kd6 |
| 24 Bf4+ | Kc5 |
| 25 Qe7+ | Kd5 |
| 26 Qc5+ | Kc4 |
| 27 Qa5 | checkmate |

Diagram of final position



Inquiry demanded

Nigel Short, still angry that he has been omitted from the English team for the Moscow chess olympiad in December, has demanded from Alan Martin, President of the British Chess Federation, that "an immediate formal inquiry" be set up into why he has been omitted.

Winning move, page 48

THE TIMES BRIDGE

Dealer West North-South vul

♠ Q96			
♥ 10962			
♦ K642			
♣ A4			
♠ 1073			
♥ K			
♦ 953			
♣ AKJ75			
♠ A5542			
♥ 84			
♦ QJ108			
♣ 86			
♠ KJ			
♥ AQJ762			
♦ A7			
♣ 1092			
W	N	E	S
3♠	No	No	3♥
No	4♥	No	No

By JOHN GRAHAM

West's pre-empt would have been frowned upon in the days when you were expected to have a seven-card suit and an outside ace, but good players today pre-empt on six-carders (even five, sometimes) and little or nothing outside.

East defended well, but South was on to him. On the ace of clubs East played the six, and on the king the eight.

West switched to a diamond, taken by dummy's king. The percentage play in trumps is to finesse, especially after the pre-empt, but declarer played the ten to his ace and claimed the contract when the king fell.

Lucky? Not at all, just pure logic. Declarer knew the club situation and asked himself a simple question: why had East not signalled in clubs? Answer: because he couldn't over-ruff the dummy.

هكذا من الأصل

Crackdown promised against corruption in public life

Major dismisses claims of Tory party sleaze

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR promised yesterday to root out wrongdoing in public life as he came under attack in the Commons over allegations of Tory sleaze.

Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs raised claims that Mr. Major had made £12 million in commission from a British-Saudi arms deal negotiated by Baroness Thatcher and that Lord Archer, of Weston-super-Mare, had profited from insider dealing in shares of Anglia Television.

The Prime Minister mounted a stout defence of Lady Thatcher and insisted that the decision not to prosecute Lord Archer had been properly taken. But he betrayed his sensitivity to the ramifications of repeated allegations of corruption, serving notice on ministers, MPs and public servants that he would not tolerate even a whiff of dubious conduct.

Mr. Major's remarks came as the Commons Privileges

Committee prepared to decide whether to hold public hearings in their questions-for-cash investigation into the conduct of two Tory MPs.

Paul Tyler, Liberal Democrat MP for North Cornwall, asked Mr. Major if his administration was now a "sleaze-free zone".

Mr. Major said that public life should be conducted according to the highest standards. Corruption was not acceptable. "I believe that our public services and our public institutions are acknowledged to be among the best in the world. To maintain that reputation... wrong-doing will have to be rooted out wherever it is. I will seek to ensure that it is."

Asked about the £20 billion al-Yamamah arms deal, Mr. Major said that Lady Thatcher had acted with "complete propriety".

Mr. Major also restated the reasons for the decision not to proceed against Lord Archer,



Archer: report should not be published

a former deputy chairman of the Tory party, over allegations of insider dealing. He said that Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, had taken independent legal advice on the report from inspectors he had appointed.

"It was therefore on the basis of the inspectors' conclusions and on the legal advice he sought that there was no

further action to be taken under the insider dealing legislation."

The Prime Minister rejected demands that the inspectors' report be published. "When the Bill was being considered before Parliament, it was made clear that inspectors' reports would not be published. Investigations are undertaken on that basis: evidence is given on that basis. It would not be right to change the position retrospectively."

Later, as the Commons began its second day of debate on defence, Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP for Linlithgow, raised reports that Sir Clive Whitmore, a former senior official, had warned Lady Thatcher in 1984 about her son's involvement in the al-Yamamah deal. Nicholas Soames, the armed services minister responded: "Sir Clive Whitmore has already denied the veracity of that story."

Leading article, page 17



MPs clash over bribe inquiry secrecy

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

A COMMONS Inquiry into the offer of money to two MPs for tabling parliamentary questions was in turmoil last night. MPs clashed over whether to hold the hearings in public and Labour members of the Committee of Privileges threatened to resign.

The 17-strong committee was set up to examine allegations that the Tory MPs Graham Riddick and David Tredinnick were prepared to accept £1,000 to table questions after being approached by *Sunday Times* journalists posing as businessmen.

Tories on the committee argued that the two MPs risked being put through a "show trial" for the media but opposition MPs demanded that the full facts of the case be aired publicly.

A senior Labour member said: "We can't tolerate this being swept under the carpet. The idea that this investigation can be allowed to go on in secret for two years and then get forgotten is just not acceptable."

History will put royal marriage fuss in its place

John Major and Douglas Hurd have devoted a large amount of time to the marital problems of the Prince and Princess of Wales. Their aim is to help the couple and to limit the damage to the Queen herself and to the monarchy as an institution. Both take very seriously their duties as advisers to the sovereign. But however much they claim that there are no constitutional implications, there are — even if they fall short of the over-heated headlines of the past few days.

There is nothing like a royal affair to create an atmosphere of constitutional crisis, full of portents, prophecies and dire warnings. Take the comments of Chips Channon, socialist MP and father of Paul Channon, in his diaries about the developing abdication crisis in December 1936. "The King is driving straight to the precipice. If he defies the Government and persists with his marriage plan, the Cabinet will resign, and there is no alternative Government as the Socialists have refused office under the present circumstances. Only a possibility of Winston Churchill..." In fact, the abdication of Edward VIII left surprisingly few ripples. Normal political life resumed. Baldwin was able to retire to almost universal, if short-lived, plaudits a few months later. It is likely to be the same again over the marriage, and possible divorce, of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Tory MPs have got themselves into a mess over whether they should, or should not, give advice to the royal couple. Many, including ministers, are in a "something must be done" mood, deploring the ill-judgment of the pair in airing their differences in public in rival books and wondering why they have been so badly advised. Many say divorce is inevitable; others deplore the behaviour of the press.

But, in reality, there is little the Government, or Parliament, can do. The latest stories may be of enormous

interest to the press, and the public, but they are of little real importance to the politics or life of the country. Most voters support the monarchy as an institution, however much they disapprove of the behaviour of its members. There is little republicanism. Hence most MPs, of both parties, do not want Parliament to be involved at all. They do not care that much. They do not want any Prince or Princess's parties, supported by the Churchill or Beaverbrook of the day.

But there are unavoidable constitutional implications. This is not just about whether a divorced Prince of Wales can succeed to the Crown, or his relations with the Church of England. These are as much to do with the state of public opinion as with the law.

As important is that the Prince of Wales himself has questioned the traditional role of the monarchy — and the continued controversy has raised questions about the remaining prerogative powers of the Crown over the appointment of prime ministers, ratification of treaties and the like. Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats have argued that these issues should be reconsidered.

Any furore over a royal divorce should pass as quickly as did the abdication. But it is useless to pretend that the previous mystique of the Crown can be maintained. The veils have been lifted not just by the media but, more, by the actions of the Royal Family itself. The Prime Minister is right to seek to protect both its reputation and its members. But it is useless to pretend that nothing has changed. The Government is in danger of looking more royalist than the monarchy.

PETER RIDDELL

Reforms delay likely

LONG-AWAITED reform of MPs' working hours is likely to be delayed further by Tony Blair's front-bench reorganisation, which will start after today's shadow Cabinet elections (Arthur Leathley writes).

Detailed discussions between the two main parties will be held up if, as expected, Nick Brown, Labour's negotiator, is moved from his position of shadow deputy Leader of the Commons. Mr. Brown has had lengthy discussions with Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, over a package

of measures aimed at ending antiquated working practices. The two main parties are understood to have reached partial agreement on the timetabling of Commons business to cut the number of late-night sittings.

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: Environment, Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill, Lords amendments, Lords (2.30): Local Government (Scotland) Bill, report stage continued.

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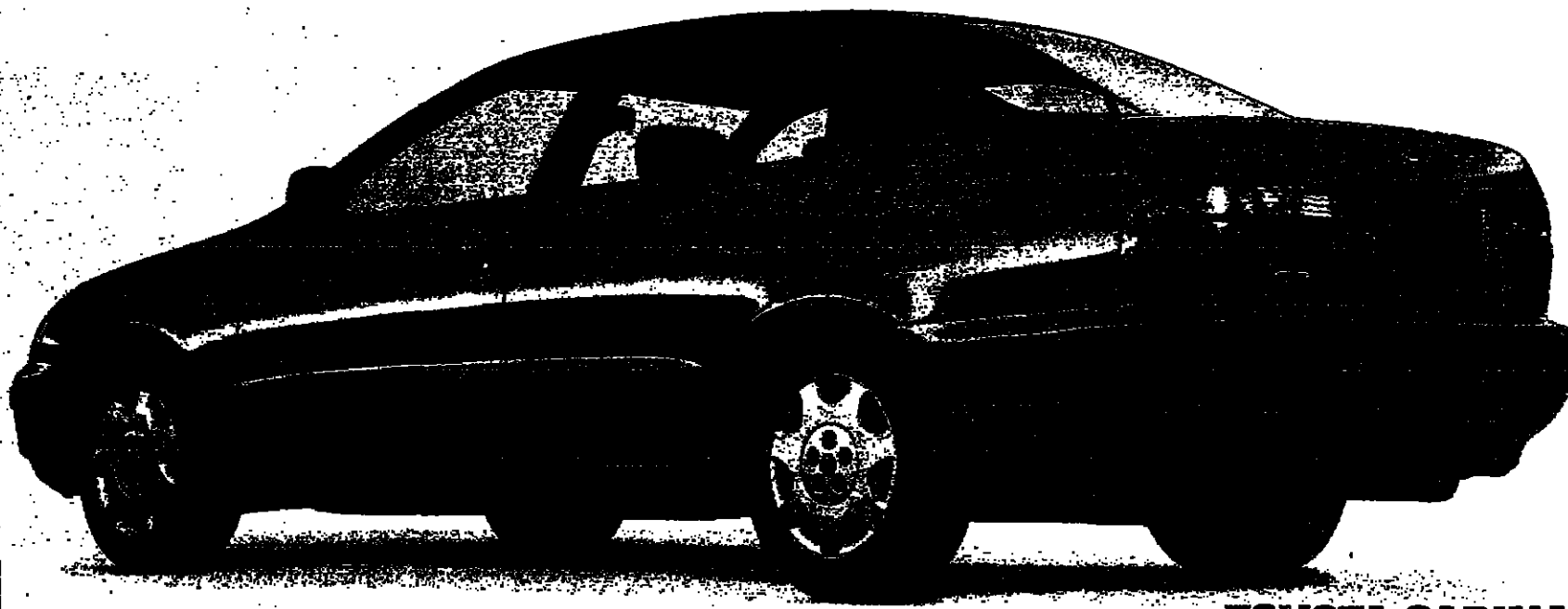
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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Major fêtes Rabin in face of frosty Syria peace stance

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND BEN LYNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

JOHN Major gave warm support yesterday to Yitzhak Rabin, his Israeli counterpart, in his efforts to normalise relations with the Jewish state's Arab neighbours, and promised that Britain would continue to uphold Israel's security in the region.

Mr Rabin, at the start of a two-day visit to Britain, briefed Mr Major on the newly signed peace agreement between Israel and Jordan and on the quickening pace of Middle East peace negotiations. The Israeli Prime Minister also discussed the visit to Israel by the Duke of Edinburgh in two weeks' time, the first visit by a member of the royal family, and the recent high-level exchanges between Britain and Israel.

Mr Major briefed Mr Rabin on last week's visit to the Gulf by Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, and underlined Britain's commitment to the independence of Kuwait and to containing President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. Mr Rabin came to Britain to

address Jewish groups a day after Israeli and Jordanian leaders initialled a draft peace treaty. As he left Israel yesterday, Syria rejected Israeli suggestions that the speedily reached peace pact could serve as a model for its slow-moving negotiations with the Rabin administration over the future of the Golan Heights.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, contrasted progress with Jordan with

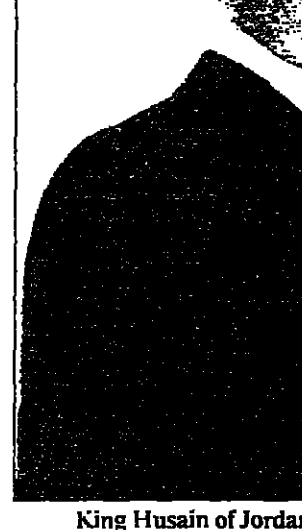


Al-Sharaa: criticised pact with Jordan

what he depicted as unyielding Syrian demands for complete Israeli withdrawal from the strategic area and a dismantling of Jewish settlements there. "There is no doubt that if Syria made its positions more flexible, the negotiations would make progress," he said on Israeli army radio. "We are trying with all our powers to bring the negotiations down from the stratosphere and atmosphere to earth."

The draft document initialled in Amman allows for swaps of territory and for Israeli farms and settlements in the southern Arava (Wadi Araba) region to remain intact and for their residents to lease land handed back to Jordan.

President Assad made clear in Cairo yesterday that Syria would not accept similar arrangements. "Our land is ours. We consider it would be blasphemy for any country to speak of renting its land to any other leadership," he said. "I doubt anyone would intend that Syria rent its land to



King Husain of Jordan lighting the cigarette of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, after the two men had initialled their Amman treaty

Israel," he declared after meeting President Mubarak. In Damascus, the newspaper of the ruling Baath party said: "If the new form of agreement with Israel is being used by Rabin as a model to be followed by others, there is no doubt his approach is not ap-

propriate and will not be implemented in other places." It added: "Israel yesterday gave peace and land without giving the opposite party anything except the security pledge and the reward represented by public contacts and meetings." In Cairo, intensive diplomacy

was under way on several tracks. As well as President Assad's presence, Israeli negotiators arrived to restart talks with the Palestinian Authority on elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli presence ended a week-long suspension of peace talks prompted by the abduction and murder of a soldier by Muslim militants. Farouk al-Sharaa, the Syrian Foreign Minister, also arrived in the Egyptian capital to take part in a meeting with Egyptian and Gulf state counterparts on the crisis prompted by Iraqi

troop movements towards Kuwait. He criticised the Israeli-Jordanian agreement, saying it left problems unresolved. "There will be no stability in the region without achieving a just and comprehensive peace. That is why we always criticise unilateral treaties."

Russia forges new economic ties with Iraq

By ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FURTHER evidence of growing Russian co-operation with Iraq emerged yesterday when Safa Hadi Jawad, the Iraqi Oil Minister, announced that he had reached agreement with Moscow to carry out a range of joint economic studies.

Mr Jawad, who returned to Iraq from Moscow yesterday, said he had held "constructive" talks with Russian officials and agreement had been reached to "launch technical studies aimed at implementing economic projects and developing oil resources."

Last month both countries signed a letter of intent to prepare for the resumption of economic and trade links after the lifting of sanctions imposed on Baghdad following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. On Sunday, Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, said that Russia saw

no objection to resuming "military technical co-operation" with Iraq as soon as international sanctions are lifted. Meanwhile, British and Russian diplomats yesterday denied reports that differences over Iraq had caused a rift



Kozyrev: accused UN of double standards

between the two countries and cast a shadow over the Queen's visit to Russia. The Interfax news agency claimed that Mr Kozyrev cancelled planned talks with Douglas Hurd in Moscow out of anger at the Foreign Secretary's criticism of his Iraq initiative. Mr Hurd, however, yesterday telephoned Mr Kozyrev, who is currently at the United Nations in New York. According to the British Embassy in Moscow, the talks were friendly and "both ministers agreed that the reports of a row between them over this were nonsense."



Hurd: no rift with the Russians over Iraq

Mr Kozyrev has aligned Russia with Britain and France against US pressure for tougher measures in the former Yugoslavia. He apparently hoped to get British support over Iraq. Mr Kozyrev told the United Nations on Monday: "A decision to lift the oil embargo could be adopted six months after long-term monitoring begins, given Iraq's honest co-operation with the United Nations." He urged the UN to drop what he called "double standards"

over the sanctions issue. In a separate development, President Assad of Syria made a rare visit to Cairo yesterday for talks with Egyptian and six Gulf countries over plans to revive the 1991 Damascus Declaration on a common Arab force to protect the Gulf states against threats by Iraq. His last-minute decision to accompany Farouk al-Sharaa, the Syrian Foreign Minister, appears to have been prompted by Syrian unease at the signing of a draft peace treaty between Israel and Jordan.

Syria has steadfastly opposed President Saddam Hussein, and last week warned the Iraqi leader not to threaten Kuwait again. But Damascus has felt increasingly isolated in the peace negotiations on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Letters, page 17

Tent site flattened by storm

Kuwait Heavy rain and hailstones have flattened most of the tents in a camp pitched on the Iraq-Kuwait desert border by Arabs demanding entry to the emirate, a United Nations official said yesterday.

"Most of the tents have been knocked down by the storm. I would say three-quarters of the 1,000 were down," said a spokesman for the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (Unikom), which monitors the post-Gulf War border. He added that people were crowded into the remaining tents for shelter and had started rebuilding the camp.

There are about 4,000 people in the camp, set up about six miles from Kuwait after Iraq massed troops near the border.

The tent people say that they are stateless Arabs, expelled from Kuwait since 1991, who want to go back to rejoin their families and regain their property. Kuwait says that they include Iraqi soldiers in disguise. Unikom has said it will use force if necessary to stop them crossing the border. (Reuters)

Marines told: Save your kisses for men

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AL-JAHRA, KUWAIT

IN AN attempt to avoid offending Islamic sensibilities, the 1,000 Royal Marines airlifted here over the past week to deter President Saddam Hussein of Iraq have been given stern official advice on issues as varied as the death penalty for adultery and the propriety of kissing local males in public.

Every fighting man has been handed a Pentagon-devised, 22-page booklet illustrated with palm trees and camels. It is designed to avoid the many clashes with Muslim religious authorities that occurred when Western troops were based in Saudi Arabia before the 1991 Gulf War.

At a time when rising Islamic fundamentalism is worrying Kuwait's ruling al-Sabah family, the main prohibitions cover relations with women.

The Marines sharing this remote desert camp with a Kuwaiti artillery unit, with little in the way of recreational facilities beyond some packs of cards, are warned not to try to date Kuwaiti women; to engage a Kuwaiti woman in conversation, unless you have been formally introduced; stare at Kuwaiti women or maintain eye contact with them; talk in public to professional women, even non-Ku-

waiti women, except on business, or kiss, touch or show affection towards any woman in public, including a non-Kuwaiti woman.

The booklet advises: "Feel free to return a hug or a kiss on the cheek initiated by a Kuwaiti man. To the Kuwaitis, these are signs of friendship, not sexuality."

The Marines, many of whom were flown out from Arbroath, Tayside, at only 24 hours' notice, have been barred from receiving their normal daily ration of two cans of beer. The booklet makes clear why: "The importation, sale or consumption of alcohol is strictly forbidden and against the law."

Dealing with social behaviour, the troops are warned against showing "impatience or undue haste", discussing politics, patronising or talking down to a Kuwaiti, or becoming involved in arguments.

Most of the Marines appeared willing to accept the unusual restraints on their lifestyle, as well as a diet including goat curries. "The thing we most objected to was having to eat frozen French lamb," said Marine Robin McGregor, 21, from Fife. The lads "thought strongly it ought to be British".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cambodia hostages 'moved'

Bangkok: Three foreign hostages who have been held by Khmer Rouge guerrillas since their train was ambushed almost three months ago may have been moved westwards to a Khmer Rouge base area near malarial forest-covered mountains where government forces have seldom been able to penetrate, diplomatic and Cambodian military sources said last night. James Pringle writes.

The hostages, a Briton, a Frenchman and an Australian, are believed to have been taken across Highway Three in Kampong province on September 3 as the Khmer Rouge attacked a police commando.

Texas torrent

Houston: Rains of up to two inches an hour - described as "a meteorological nightmare" - shut down much of Houston as the death toll reached seven in floods across south-eastern Texas. (Reuters)

Bank move

Moscow: President Yeltsin promoted Tatyana Paramonova, 44, from deputy head to acting chairman of the Russian Central Bank in the wake of Viktor Geraschenko's resignation. (Reuters)

Soldiers jailed

Jakarta: An Indonesian military tribunal jailed two Muslim soldiers and dismissed them from the army for desecrating a Roman Catholic church in East Timor, a newspaper reported. (AP)

Concorde hit

Wellington: A freak gust of wind blew a set of steps into the side of a British Airways Concorde, rupturing the fuel tank, an airline spokesman said. Only a small amount of fuel was spilt. (Reuters)

Dying of thirst

Canberra: Drought-stricken kangaroos invading Australia's capital will be shot because of accidents caused by drivers avoiding them. (AP)

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【الوقت العربي】

Seoul hails nuclear deal with North as step to détente

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SOUTH Korea yesterday hailed an agreement between America and North Korea as a move toward ending the nuclear crisis and said it could provide a breakthrough for détente between the two Koreas.

"The Geneva agreement has laid the groundwork for a fundamental solution of the nuclear issue and for the maintenance of stability and peace on the Korean peninsula," a South Korean government statement said.

The draft agreement was reached early on Monday morning in Geneva. Negotiators from both countries later flew home to secure final approval from their governments and the accord is expected to be signed in Geneva on Friday. It should "totally eliminate the so-called suspicions about our nuclear programme", said Kang Sok Ju, North Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister.

The final breakthrough came after 17 months of fraught and intermittent negotiations. Robert Gallucci, the chief US negotiator, called the agreement "acceptable and very positive". Yohei Kono,

Japan's Foreign Minister, said it had Tokyo's support.

US and North Korean officials both claimed victory in the negotiations. In fact, both sides made big concessions, and the US appears to have accepted a protracted timetable that gives Pyongyang scope for reneging yet again. "It will take years for this whole thing to be implemented," one US official conceded.

The exact details have yet to be published, but North Korea has evidently agreed to freeze and ultimately dismantle its nuclear weapons programme and to comply fully with the International Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Pyongyang's threat to leave the treaty, which provides for unimpeded inspections of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), precipitated the crisis in March 1993.

America has in return undertaken to arrange for the construction by an international consortium, including Japan and South Korea, of two light-water reactors costing around \$4 billion (£2.6 billion) to replace North Korea's existing or half-built graphite reac-

tors. The new reactors would not produce plutonium which can be diverted to nuclear weapons.

The IAEA reserved judgement yesterday on the accord, saying it would study the text. A spokesman said the agency's decision-making board of governors would probably hold a special meeting within the next two weeks.

Russia welcomed the accord. Mikhail Demurin, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said: "We greet any progress which could help solve the problem. At the same time we say we are ready to help."

What may cause controversy is the fact that North Korea appears to have been permitted to defer its compliance with some of Washington's demands until key elements of the new reactors are in place in five or six years. North Korea would be allowed to store an estimated 8,000 spent fuel rods that are laden with plutonium before eventually transferring them to another country. It has agreed to inspections at a future stage of two secret sites that should show whether it has already built a nuclear bomb.



The imposing mountains of Gough Island and, below, a pair of the rare southern elephant seal

Outpost of empire likely to win world heritage status

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A ROCKY outpost of Britain's former empire is expected to be listed as a world heritage site, putting its South Atlantic wildlife and scenery on the same cultural footing as the Taj Mahal, Venice and the Canadian city of Quebec.

The elevation of the uninhabited and windswept Gough Island in the Tristan da Cunha group, has been requested by the British Government. The island has two

indigenous landbird species, at least eight native insects, and fabled penguin and seal colonies, and is considered by some ornithologists to be the world's finest seabird colony.

The request for listing highlights a growing push by the Foreign Office to counter critics who allege environmental neglect in Britain's last colonial possessions. The submission includes a plan for preserving the island's wildlife and landscape from the threats of fire and of introduced, alien species, such as rats.

If Unesco approves the request, it will bring Britain's nature-related world heritage sites to four, joining Henderson Island, part of the Pitcairn group in the Pacific; St Kilda, off the west coast of Scotland; and the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland. The Foreign Office said yesterday that "uninhabited,



oceanic islands like Gough are among the few habitats in the world that remain relatively undisturbed, and are therefore of special conservation significance. The island represents the core of an [ancient] volcano. It is scenically beautiful with spectacularly precipitous cliffs... and mountains." The island, whose waters were

extensively whaled in the 19th century, is home to the Gough bunting and Gough moorhen and has 22 species of breeding land and sea birds.

It has 200,000, or 90 per cent, of the world's fur seal population and is also noted for its bogs, mosses, fungi, lichens and ferns. Nearly all the world's Atlantic petrels breed there.

Activists fight to save elephant



Gandhi: protest over call for death sentence

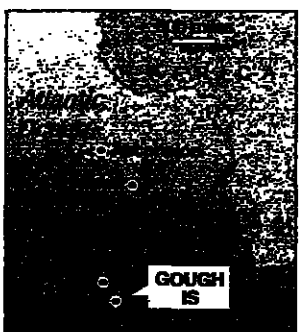
INDIA'S animal welfare activists have asked the World Wide Fund for Nature to save an elephant that is due to be killed for sleeping in a road and blocking the way of visiting VIPs (Christopher Thomas writes from Delhi).

"People may not believe it, this may sound revolting, but they want to kill the elephant," said Maneka Gandhi, leading animal welfare campaigner and sister-in-law of the late Rajiv Gandhi.

The elephant, Bir Bahadur, hauled logs in the Andaman Islands, 500 miles off India's east coast. It has fled

into the jungle and is being pursued by officials ordered to kill it. Bir Bahadur's mistake was to rest on a road when a motorcade carrying the top local administrator passed through. The elephant had refused to work after its trainer was replaced, and ignored all attempts to move it. The VIPs were delayed for hours. "An elephant obeys the command of his trainer and nobody else," Mrs Gandhi said.

The administrator ordered the elephant to be examined. Elephants are protected unless they turn rogue.



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Kennedy battles for survival in liberal heartland

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN BOSTON

IT IS a sight few ever expected to see: a Kennedy begging for support in the state where his family has long accepted political office as a birthright. "I need your help," Edward Kennedy pleaded to a group of 700 Massachusetts students, none of whom was even born when he first took his Senate seat.

At the age of 62, Teddy Kennedy still reflects the powerful mystique of America's most beloved family. His record as a legislator is unrivalled, he has an attractive young wife, and his campaign coffers are full.

But with the winds of anti-incumbent feeling blowing throughout America in the run-up to the mid-term elections next month, and nowhere more coldly than in Massachusetts, the veteran senator is fighting for his political life.

According to the latest polls, Mr Kennedy is running neck and neck with Mitt Romney, a Republican and a political neophyte, and the unthinkable is looming: an election in the Kennedy heartland which a Kennedy may lose.

It is the contrast between those necks that has caught the imagination of the harsher pundits: Mr Kennedy's is thick and mottled, overlapped by chins, while that of his opponent is smooth and easily contained behind his shirt

collar. Mr Kennedy's critics have made him into the picture of Dorian Gray: an ageing libertine whose ravaged face and expanded girth reflect a life ill spent. Mr Romney, by contrast, is a teetotal, deeply religious family man of 47, with crisp good looks, great wealth and easy charm. The challenger appears more like a Kennedy than Mr Kennedy himself.

The older man has spent more than half his life in Washington battling for old-fashioned liberal Democratic

principles, while Mr Romney is a political outsider, arguing that America needs less government, not more. At a time when American voters are in iconoclastic mood, Mr Romney has come as a breath of fresh, if thin, air.

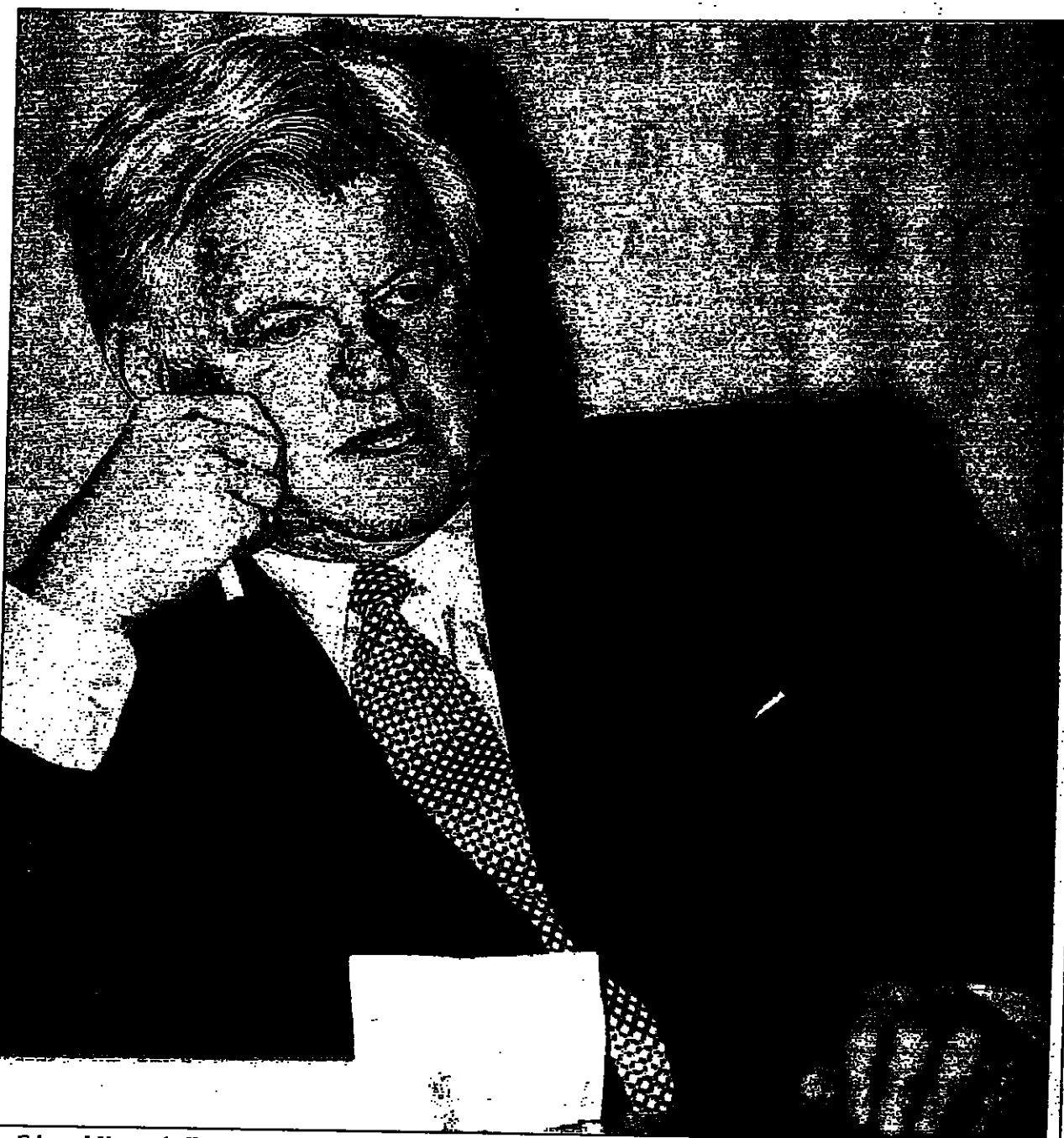
Next week these two philosophies will meet head-on when the candidates debate on live television. Mr Kennedy knows he is fighting the effects of age, as well as the ghosts of Chappaquiddick, a turbulent private life, a failed marriage, and most recently his notori-

ous drinking spree with William Kennedy Smith on the night in 1991 when his nephew was accused of rape.

In recent days the senator has hurried around Massachusetts, summoning up the Kennedy family icons. At a gathering of the elderly in Swansea, amid coloured balloons and pink tablecloths, he proclaimed: "A lot has been said about age in this campaign. I'm 62. I don't think I'm that old, do you?" The audience shook their grey heads and cheered quietly.

Backed against the ropes, Mr Kennedy has also resorted to more unfamiliar and ugly tactics. This month he brought up the issue of his opponent's Mormon beliefs, questioning the sect's history of refusing leadership positions to blacks and women. Mr Romney promptly recalled how JFK had been forced to defend himself as a Roman Catholic when he ran for President.

When asked to comment on the Endangered Species Act, Mr Kennedy seemed to miss a beat, his colour rose and he launched into one of his meandering, incoherent replies, all shards of syntax and incomplete thoughts. His aides exchanged meaningful glances, knowing only too well that their candidate, himself an endangered species, is facing political extinction.



Edward Kennedy listening to a question during a Senate election campaign stop in Taunton, Massachusetts.

Race and IQ book raises furore

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

Charles Murray, the conservative social scientist, has sparked controversies before, but none to match the present furore. He has set a match to America's most explosive issue by daring publicly to suggest that blacks are genetically less intelligent than whites, and that low intelligence leads to crime, illegitimacy and a permanent welfare-dependent underclass.

In no time at all Dr Murray's new academic tome, *The Bell Curve*, has become the year's most reviled publication, condemned not only by those who disagree with its conclusions but also by those who accept them but fear where they could lead.

Time, *Newsweek* and *US News and World Report* all dissect and generally reject Dr Murray's thesis in this week's editions. The comment pages of American newspapers are rapidly filling up with strident denunciations. There was open rebellion at *The New Republic* when Andrew Sullivan, the British editor, decided to publish an 11-page synopsis by Dr Murray and his co-author, Richard Herrnstein, the late Harvard psychologist. Mr Sullivan succeeded in printing the article only by simultaneously publishing 18 rebuttals by his staff and academics.

Dr Murray complained yesterday: "It's damn near hysteria. I think it is evidence of how right Herrnstein and I were when we said that right beneath the surface of American life is a very, very dangerous tension about race." He has asked interviewers not to say where his home is because "we live in a small town with small children and we have crazies in the town".

Blacks have consistently scored between ten and 15 points below average on IQ tests, but *The Bell Curve* breaks new ground by attributing this more to "nature" than "nurture", more to heredity than cultural factors such as a pregnant mother's poor nutrition or drug abuse, or a child's lack of early intellectual stimulation.

Dr Murray and Dr Herrnstein argue that modern American society is increasingly rewarding intelligence, thereby producing a "cognitive elite" and a permanent underclass that lacks the intelligence ever to make good. They appear to imply that affirmative action to help these people is doomed to failure, and that welfare should be ended because it encourages low-IQ women to have babies.

Racial differences, page 16

Hungry Haitians scour rubbish tip for US leftovers

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

THE only relief from the stench that hangs over the squalid La Saline rubbish dump is the light breeze from the ocean.

Hundreds of Haitians flock to the dump each day to pick their way through the mountains of rubbish. Their numbers have risen dramatically recently as word has spread that American troops are depositing their rubbish there too. Suddenly there are relatively rich pickings to be had. New items have appeared among the Haitian waste, which consists largely of fruit skins and empty cans of food.

The distinctive brown and green plastic wrappers of the military rations, known as "meals-ready-to-eat" or "MREs", are easy to spot. The scraps that 20,000 American soldiers throw on the rubbish heap can mean a daily meal for a hungry Haitian.

Pierre Volsir, 18, spends up to six hours a day looking for food at the rubbish tip. Yesterday he opened a dirty plastic bag, decorated with a picture of Haiti's newly returned President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, to reveal what he had found. He pulled out some military crackers sealed in plastic, a

packet of instant oatmeal, a one-cup bag of sugar, and a miniature bottle of Tabasco sauce.

Then with a flourish he held up his prize, a slightly crushed and grubby pack of chocolate drops. "That's for my two boys," he said grinning.

There are few smiles here, however. Nowhere in Haiti is the enormity of the task facing Mr Aristide and the Clinton Administration more evident. "It's terrifying. We eat like dogs," said Gilbert Cadet, a young Haitian observing the scene from a nearby street.

Rubbish lorries pulled into the dump every couple of minutes, some driven by American soldiers wearing scarves over their noses and mouths to block out the smell. "I give them what I don't eat," one driver said. "I'm glad if they can get something out of it."

A group of three men knelt in a huddle as they took turns to try to smash open a plastic tube. Closer inspection showed it to be a silicone sealant, made in England, with a warning label which read, "Avoid contact with the eyes and skin", and "Store in a dry, cool place".

Rwandan vanishes with cash

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

POLICE are searching for Rwanda's new Foreign Minister after he disappeared with almost \$200,000 (£130,000) in cash during a trip to the United Nations.

Jean-Marie Vianney Ndagimana went missing on October 9 after being told he had to move from the New York Hilton to a cheaper hotel. He was carrying \$187,000 in

American currency from the Rwandan Treasury to fund the Rwandan mission to the UN, which was left with just \$5,000 when abandoned by the previous regime.

Rwandan officials say the Foreign Minister could have been robbed and abducted, but they fear that he has stolen the money. A former Ambassador in Paris and Addis

Ababa for the deposed Humu-dominated government, Mr Ndagimana was named Foreign Minister as part of the broad-based government set up in July when that regime was ousted by the Rwandan Patriotic Front.

Rwandan officials say their diplomatic mission in New York now has no money to pay the ambassador or other staff.

Veterans recall first kamikaze mission

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN RED BEACH, PHILIPPINES

FIFTY years ago yesterday, Japan produced its most feared weapon, young suicide pilots willing to crash bomb-laden planes into US ships in Leyte Gulf to halt the US landing in the Philippines.

The kamikazes, called the "Divine Wind", sank one of six American ships lost in the battle of Leyte Gulf in which the US Navy turned back an attempt to destroy General Douglas MacArthur's forces, which landed here on Leyte island on October 20, 1944.

American and Filipino veterans are joining thousands of others on this island, 350 miles southeast of Manila, for commemorative ceremonies that reach their climax tomorrow.

The kamikazes were born

on October 18, 1944, when the Japanese 201st Air Group was activated in a two-storey house near Mabalacat, a farming community about 50 miles north of Manila, near the former US Clark air base.

In the Leyte Gulf battle, kamikazes with their inexperienced pilots swarmed round the carriers. Most of the planes, carrying 551 lb bombs, were shot down or exploded before hitting their targets.

Few reminders of the kamikazes survive, except in the memories of war veterans and the families of those who died. The house that served as the 201st headquarters was torn down, and a marker erected by the Japanese was buried by volcanic avalanches by Mount Pinatubo in 1991.

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【الطريق الى الجنة】

Kohl's style cramped as Bonn bargaining begins

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT Kohl, the re-elected German Chancellor, yesterday opened talks with the Free Democrats on a new coalition with Hildegard Hamm-Brücher, the veteran Free Democrat, vowing not to enter a coalition with the Christian Democrats "at any price".

The Free Democrats (FDP) only just slipped into parliament with 6.9 per cent of the vote, but that entitled them to 47 seats — without which Herr Kohl cannot rule. Klaus Kinkel, the FDP leader and Foreign Minister in the last coalition, is, however, with Herr Kohl over whether the party can still lay claim to foreign affairs and the economics and justice ministries.

Whatever the shape of the new government, it is clear that Germany will be a less decisive, more inhibited actor on the world stage as a result of Herr Kohl's much reduced majority.

The election has left Herr Kohl partly dependent on the goodwill of the Social Democrats, opposition in the Bundestag, and over the past two years Constitutional Court

judgments have given the Bundestag greater powers to approve Bonn's European or global initiatives. The court, which cleared the way for ratification of the Maastricht treaty, made it clear that every future move to European integration had to be approved by parliament.

By this same token, the court insisted that the dispatch of troops outside the Nato area was conditional, in each mission, on the government securing a simple majority in parliament. When the Chancellor had a majority of more than 100 that did not present a problem. But Herr Kohl has only a two-seat majority. Social Democrats have never been keen on overseas military missions; neither the Greens nor former communists of the Party of Democratic Socialism want to see military action abroad. There are also deputies with pacifist inclinations in Herr Kohl's Christian Democratic Union and even more in the Free Democrats.

Herr Kohl's original aim of being the first modern German leader to engage fully in

world politics has therefore been stymied.

The cross-party consensus on Europe is broader, but here too Herr Kohl may stumble. Last month's CDU strategy paper, presented by Wolfgang Schäuble, the CDU floor leader, was criticised for identifying a "hard-core" of European integrationists — France, Germany and the Benelux states. The Social Democrats and Free Democrats attacked the paper for the notion that Europe could be divided up into first class passengers, business class, economy and bucket shop.

There is agreement on the fundamental premise of the document that only an effective European nucleus can make it possible to open the Union to Eastern states.

Parliamentary approval for steps towards European Monetary Union may not present a great hurdle. But the Social Democrats are adamant that Central and Eastern Europe should be offered only very partial membership of the European Union. They are also concerned about "social

dumping" — cheap labour from Central Europe — competitive imports threatening jobs, and the future of the common agricultural policy if Poland joins. Nor do they like the commitment to accelerate entry of Central European states to Nato.

Cobbling together the government coalition will be a complex task. Ruffling with it will be even more complicated. The betting is that there will be a parliamentary gridlock on social legislation, privatisation, taxes and law and order. The danger is that foreign policy will also enter a world of fudge and delay.

Herr Kohl was quick to say on Monday that Germany intended to be the motor of European integration. But the message from the voters, read more carefully yesterday, was not "full steam ahead, Helmut" so much as "slow down, tread carefully".

□ **Pact rejected:** A minor crisis erupted in the Social Democrat headquarters yesterday when local party leaders in the eastern state of Mecklenburg-West Pomer-



Posters of Helmut Kohl go into storage in Hamburg after the close election result

nia said they were considering a tactical alliance with the Party of Democratic Socialism. The Social Democrats swore throughout the campaign that they would not make common cause with the PDS. This message was re-

layed to the local party chiefs and the future complexion of the government in that state seems uncertain. The CDU lost their traditional coalition partner, the FDP, in the state elections held on Sunday.

The far-right Republican

Party, meanwhile, held a fierce meeting of its executive in Bonn. Leaders blamed each other for the party's dismal showing in the general election. It captured only 1.9 per cent of the vote and has collapsed as a serious force.

Russian premier denies quitting

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

VIKTOR Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, last night strongly denied a report that he had offered to resign. In a message read on Russian television, he described it as "unprincipled misinformation" and "a clear political provocation" aimed at destabilising the government.

The report that the Prime Minister had offered his resignation, broadcast by a Moscow radio station, was immediately denied by Sergei Surov, the government's press spokesman, who described it as "rubbish".

The radio station, Moscow Echo, had said that Mr Chernomyrdin had offered his resignation in a letter to President Yeltsin, citing health reasons. The report quoted "a source close to the Prime Minister". A journalist at the station alleged last night that Mr Chernomyrdin is closely linked to a banking group centrally involved in the brief but steep crash of the rouble last week.

UN rejects call for airstrike after Serb convoy attack

BY JOEL BRAND IN ZAGREB
EVE-ANN PRENTICE AND JAMES BONE

BRITISH troops asked their UN commanders for urgent assistance yesterday after the convoy they were escorting came under Serb fire near Gorazde and a local driver was killed. The attack lasted two hours, but senior military and civilian officials at UN headquarters in the Croatian capital, Zagreb, decided not to launch a Nato airstrike because the attack had occurred several hours before dawn, darkness was falling and there was no identifiable target.

Serb gunners fired on the Bosnian government food convoy carrying UN relief aid and escorted by troops from the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment. The British troops returned fire. One civilian lorry driver died before medical help arrived, and another was wounded.

The attack came as Nato and UN officials in New York failed to agree on a tougher airstrike policy in Bosnia. The two sides differ on whether airstrikes should be extended to punitive strikes or "strategic targets" not directly related to the offence.

It was not clear whether the British troops yesterday specifically asked for Nato air support, but the option was seriously considered by Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the UN commander in Bosnia, who called General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military leader in Pale. Yasushi Akashi, the UN

special envoy based in Zagreb, discussed the situation with officials in New York. Mr Akashi has the final say on the use of Nato warplanes in support of UN troops.

In Sarajevo, UN officials demanded the return of medical supplies looted from a Sarajevo aid convoy by Bosnian Serb soldiers on Monday, and said General Mladic had "promised" to co-operate. The five-lorry convoy was stopped at gunpoint at a Serb checkpoint outside Sarajevo.

The United States has meanwhile told its allies that it plans to table a tough new Security Council resolution soon calling for an automatic six-month timetable for lifting the arms embargo on the Muslim-led Bosnian government. But in private talks among the five nations of the international Contact Group on Bosnia, American officials have said that Washington is willing to let the resolution be watered down — by not making it automatic — before it is put to a vote.

□ **UN role:** Lord Owen, the European Union negotiator, yesterday said the future of the UN operation in Croatia was in jeopardy because of problems in negotiations with the Croatian government. "There is little doubt that if we are unable to make substantial progress before January, the chances of a renewal of the mandate are very few," he said. "Unprofor's continued presence in the whole of the region comes under question."

An evening with Archbishop Tutu

DURING Nelson Mandela's imprisonment, Archbishop Desmond Tutu became the voice of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. He will share his experience of life under oppression and the birth of South African democracy at a Times/Dillons Forum, introduced by Terry Waite, on Monday, October 24, at 7.30pm at Westminster Central Hall, Storeys Gate, London SW1. Archbishop Tutu will sign copies of *The Rainbow People of God* afterwards.

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PARIS: the French Fashion Week signals a return to a curvy and seductive elegance

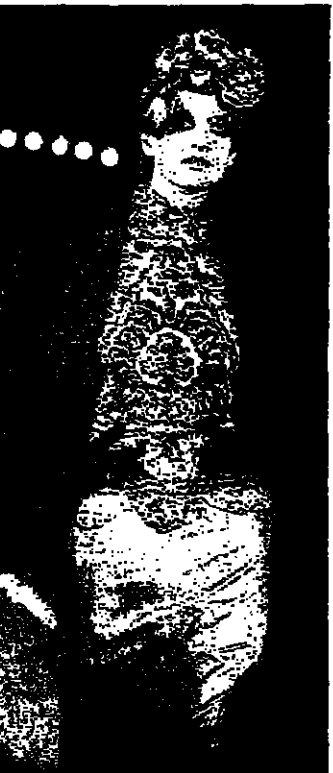
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CHLOE: sweetness and lace



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JEAN PAUL GAULTIER's heroine, left, is a faded Sunset Boulevard screen goddess; JOHN GALLIANO's tailored suits, right, recall Irving Penn's corseted mannequins



VIVIENNE WESTWOOD: curvy



MARTINE SITBON: sharp suiting



YVES SAINT LAURENT: kimonos



CHRISTIAN LACROIX: leather



COMME DES GARÇONS: tutus

NOT FOR a long while has fashion appeared this desirable, this seductive. Paris Fashion Week was filled with wickedly elegant clothes for lovers of sensual pleasures. The Parisian shows were coquettish and breezy as the designers drew from past eras when, in the

doldrums of recession or *fin de siècle* doom and gloom, fashion lifted the spirits with the frivolous and fanciful. Motifs of merriment appeared throughout the shows. Edwardian Naughty Nineties S-bend corsetry, and the full-skirted luxury of Dior's New Look hemline from 1946 were obvious favourites. The uplifted bosom and the down-to-the-knee hemline combined to offer a sleek silhouette. There were touches of whimsy too. Veiled cocktail hats, fluttering feathers, girlish frills, the sheen of satin (and the modern equivalent, PVC), a smattering of rhinestones, and a frisson of eroticism in the form of see-through lace and silk chiffon.

These are clothes to feel good wearing. Nowhere was this more obvious than at Gaultier's spectacular show, where the handful of supermodels, who paraded and posed à la Irving Penn's photographic mannequins, never looked more fabulous. They simply loved wearing the superbly tailored suits and dresses which only Gaultier can masterfully cut. "These clothes will never look this beautiful again," said a *Vogue* fashion editor. It was, as they say, a fashion moment.

There were many such moments during Paris Fashion Week. From the start, when Rei Kawakubo showed her Comme des Garçons collection which blurred the sexes: masculine suiting cut into shapely morning coats was worn with starched, ruffled smocks or, even more surprisingly, bustled tutus



Fashion
by
IAIN R.
WEBB

with trailing trains. And at the end, when Karl Lagerfeld emphasised *la différence* in his collection for Chanel: corseted sorbet-coloured tweed suits sparkled, while the original Chanel jacket was cropped into a teeny-weeny rendering of its former self. Sexy and fun. By comparison, Lagerfeld's collection for Chloé was soft and sweet: lots of neat ladylike suits, prettied-up with lots of lace.

Christian Lacroix also favoured lace — and feathers, and rhinestones, and leather, and... This season Lacroix's collection lacked focus. Like the mirrorball which twirled above his catwalk, when he shone he was brilliant (the carved white leather trouser suit, or a sequin striped jacket), but there were also moments of bewildering blackness when the designer was left groping in the dark.

Shiny is fashion's new buzz word, and some of the shiniest moments were provided by Martine Sitbon and Rifat Ozbek. Both cut sharply defined suits (with Oxford bag trousers and knee-length skirts respectively), in

Photographs by CHRIS MOORE and ANDREW THOMAS

creamy white, as did Helmut Lang, who has perfected the look to please his cult following.

The die-hard fans of Yves Saint Laurent were more than pleased with the designer's new collection, his best for several seasons. He juxtaposed slick tailoring with languid lounge suits. See-through knits and sequin T-shirts were only outshone by his chiffon kimono dresses which came in every colour of the rainbow.

Sonia Rykiel creates Parisian chic via Hollywood: satin pyjama suits, figure-hugging knitted dresses and skirts, pedal pushers, sequin striped sweaters, maribou feather trims and tiaras offered movie-star pizzazz.

Valentino dresses real-life movie queens. Joan Collins and Marisa Berenson sat in the front row applauding the designer's sensational collection, as did Vivienne Westwood, who had shown her own breathtaking version of curvy elegance earlier in the week. Valentino's honed tweed suits, with narrow knee-skimming skirts, emphasised the waist, as did his bolero jackets. He mixed sequin plaids, feathers and fluffball knits, with satin hotpants and prom-queen party dresses in a vintage collection. Just fabulous.

Absolutely the best show in Paris was that of Jean Paul Gaultier. Gaultier's heroine was a faded Sunset Boulevard screen goddess, who romped through the backlot wardrobes of Paramount Studios. Her look was part costume drama (leg-of-mutton sleeves and pin-

tucked blouses), part Katharine Hepburn drag (chiffon trouser suits), and part Mildred Pierce (humely button-through dresses).

But the best part of all was the way in which Gaultier managed to make something so fantastic appear quite so inviting.



VALENTINO: honed elegance



RIFAT OZBEK: cream suits

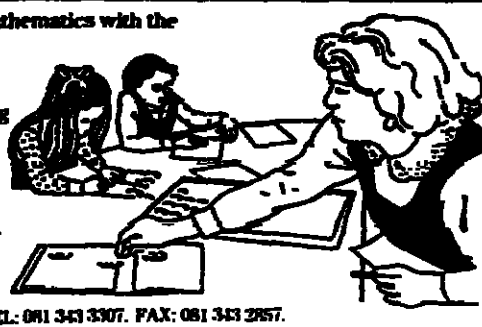
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THE higher the heels, the closer to heaven. Hardly. Fashion editors are only too keen to promote heels on their pages, but it doesn't stop them complaining when they slip into a pair. "My feet are killing me" became the mantra of the collections.

CHARMING affections on the catwalk have always been the way to get noticed — Claudia's knock-kneed walk, Eve's abrupt stop, pose, turn and Naomi's smooth sashay, for instance. But Brandy, the stunning new Chanel model, has gone from the sublime to the ridiculous. Her walk has

become an exaggerated bounce. Springing in time to the music she looks more like a Viennese show horse than clothes mannequin.

OUT with the old and in with the new. This season fashion editors and buyers alike adopted a more formal approach to dressing. Casual clothes and pinsoles gave way to smart knee-length skirts, coat and dress suits worn with heels and a matching bag. The look is reminiscent of Jackie O during her

White House years, with a sprinkling of Hitchcock heroine. Chic and businesslike, the new look requires small touches of glam, such as black glossy accessories and sparkling jewellery, to avoid looking overly mature.

AND the guests wore black, black and more black to celebrate the launch of Comme des Garçons' first scent, also called Comme des Garçons, which was held at The Ritz in Paris. Polythene bags filled with amber-col-

oured water, purporting to be the real thing, decorated the sides of the underground pool which was continuously swum in by Olympic swimmers. True to form, the scent, spicy and lingering, is presented in a no-nonsense manner. Shrink-wrapped in clear plastic, the bottle is like a hip flask and can only be held on its side. It is available in London at Comme des Garçons, 59 Brook Street, W1, and Liberty, Regent Street, W1. Eau de parfum is £52 for 100ml; eau de toilette £47 for 100ml.

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so far if
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سازمان آوازی

Julia Llewellyn Smith fulfils the fantasy of half the women in Britain

'I think I'm good at what I do. You don't go far if you don't'

Neil Pearson spends more time between the lines and less between the sheets

I wanted to join Neil Pearson. I wanted to say that the sexiest man on television was a name-dropping, luvvie. I wanted to say that the star of *Between the Lines* and *Drop the Dead Donkey* turned up to meet me in a dandruff-flecked duffle coat, with a potato-sized wart sprouting on his nose; that the 35-year-old actor wiped his nose on his sleeve, spat on the pavement and said: "Owright Jules? How about a Snakebite?"

Alternatively, I wish (as do my friends and colleagues) I could report that Pearson's jaw dropped when he saw me sitting outside the Soho café, that in one manly stride he traversed the busy street and that there on the rubbish-strewn pavement he infused my body with an elixir of love and strength.

The reality, I'm afraid, was disappointing. Pearson, the man responsible for more adulterous fantasies than Julio Iglesias, is very bright, very charming and very unavailable.

Unless you have just returned from a month's holiday in Borneo, you will know who Pearson is. He is the stocky, dark-haired, blue-eyed chap who appears on telly every night of the weekend, usually between your favourite sitcom and the news, in a trailer for *Between the Lines* (9.30pm, BBC1, tonight).

"Neil Pearson is today's Clark," intones the voice-over and all over the nation women jingle for the remote control.

From tonight, however, Pearson does not seem to be limited to two weekly fixes: Thursday when he plays the snappy reporter Dave Chanley in *Drop the Dead Donkey* and Wednesday, when he plays the afore-said Tony, in a new series of the wonderful police drama, where the tension is provided by character and motivation rather than wailing sirens and handbrake turns.

The previous two series were adored by the critics but attracted a bafflingly small audience. Aficionados should bear this in mind when they tune in tonight to discover that

mixed-up Tony has left the moral shadowlands of the Complaints Investigations Bureau, the police who monitor the police, for the even more dubious, but equally more audience-friendly, world of private investigations.

Pearson admits that fans may cry "sell-out". "I'm aware of a little bit of suspicion — people tend to like what they know. But we thought we'd told all the stories we could in the CIB. This time we cover the resurgence of European fascism and alleged shoot-to-kill policies, which would not have been within the remit of the CIB."

It is true that Pearson has retained his superiority and, if the first programme is anything to go by, is more down and difficult than ever. Pearson does take his top off at one point, but there are none of the saucy moments that led to the first series being rechristened "Between the Sheets".

"Tony had to move on," Pearson says. "He couldn't stay an emotional cripple forever — in this series he will actually have an adult relationship." Seeing my look of horror, he adds: "We like to think people are watching the story lines rather than the kit removal."

We are sitting on a bench in St James's Park. It is Pearson's day off, and it was his idea to talk in the warm October sun, rather than in the actor's preferred venue of an anonymous hotel lounge. Pearson takes the unusual approach of feigning interest in the interviewer. He is making the best of a bad job; he hates interviews but feels duty-bound to plug the shows, of which he is rightly proud. And to a certain extent, he will play the game, chatting freely about his childhood — born in Battersea, mother a legal secretary, father a panel beater, who left home when he was five.

Inspired by tales of midnight feasts in Anthony Buckeridge's *Jennings* books, he begged to go to boarding school and was sent to



Neil Pearson: "We like to think people are watching the story lines rather than the kit removal"

Woolverstone Hall, a state-aided boarding school in Suffolk, where he spent a "wonderful" seven years. "Girls from the convent were shipped in for discos and we drank sherry out of Coke cans."

Just as Pearson knew he would enjoy boarding school, he knew that he wanted to be an actor. He studied at the Central School of Speech and Drama and since graduating has been constantly in work. "I'm lucky, because I knew what I wanted to do when I was very young and I was right."

Everything about Pearson spells single-mindedness. He is notoriously well organised ("anal, some people call it") and admits to a certain arrogance. "Americans call it self-confidence. I do think I'm good at what I do. You don't go far if you do."

He is a member of the Labour

Party and appeared in a party political broadcast for the European elections. This aside, he refuses to appear in commercials. "What actors are doing is pretending and what advertisers are doing is lying and I'm eminently suspicious of people offering you large sums of money to lie."

He is equally unswerving in his determination to let the press have no inkling of his private life. "I live alone in south London."

So what would you say Neil, if I told you I have seen you snogging in a cinema with your red-haired co-star Siobhan Redmond? Heartbroken, I removed your crumpled picture from my computer. Pearson, with his John-Lennon shades on, does not flinch but launches

into a spiel about "rumours" and "gossip" that makes me think that if he ever gives up his day job, he would be an excellent performer at Westminster.

"I like attention. I like people looking at me, but only if it's controllable and I am in charge." He wiggles round on the bench and looks deep into my sunglasses. If only my girlfriends could see me now. "Any assistance you could give me in that department would be appreciated."

Well, sorry Neil, but I don't think I saw anything particularly scandalous. If it's any consolation, you managed to wheedle far more out of me than I did from you, which you are now welcome to repeat at will. And it can't hurt too much to know that across the land television sets will be draped in black crepe to mark the death of your eligibility.

Serious fuel for thought

Magnus Linklater considers the impact of North Sea oil on his childhood haunt

Twenty-five years ago the first sample of North Sea oil was brought ashore from a secret location 150 miles east of Aberdeen. It came in a pickle jar because there was no other suitable container. But the man who brought it, Brendan MacKeown, a geologist working for the American oil company Amoco, was aware from the start that he was on to something good. "We knew we had a winner," he said later.

Quite how big a winner it would turn out to be no one could have guessed. In 1977, when commercial exploitation began, the Prime Minister, James Callaghan, said, "God has given Britain her best opportunity for 100 years in the shape of North Sea oil." The figures suggest that he could have been right. The total value of continental-shelf oil sales since then has been put at more than £100 billion — enough to build 14 Channel tunnels. As production reached 80 million tonnes a year in 1980, Britain became self-sufficient in its main form of fuel. From then on everything should have been surplus revenue, a vast new source of investment to launch a new industrial revolution in Britain.

It never happened, of course, and the 25th anniversary has been marked more by re-creation than celebration. Experts as diverse as Sir Alistair Morton, chairman of Euro-tunnel, Lord Gil-mour and Professor Wynne Godley unite in condemning a lost opportunity.

Well, that is certainly one side of the story, but there is another more human dimension, which shows in microcosm what has been gained as well as lost because of the upheavals caused by this industrial behemoth. For me, the arrival of North Sea oil goes hand in hand with a poignant memory. On New Year's Day in 1970, I watched from a distance as two bulldozers crawled across the bare sands of Nigg Bay on the north shore of the Cromarty Firth. I knew every last corner of that place, its dunes, its tidal pools, its bird life. It was where I grew up. Now it was about to be destroyed, and rendered unrecognisable. The whole bay was to be filled in, the landscape turned from sand and sea into concrete and cranes. This was to be one of Scotland's main oil platform construction sites — known thereafter as "the biggest hole in Europe". We tried, however, not to be sentimental about what was happening. After all, we had sold our beautiful but shabby pink house so that the development could go ahead. Oil was progress, a new era, and before it came Nigg had been a dying

area. The best you could do was to try to make the new money work for the area rather than against it.

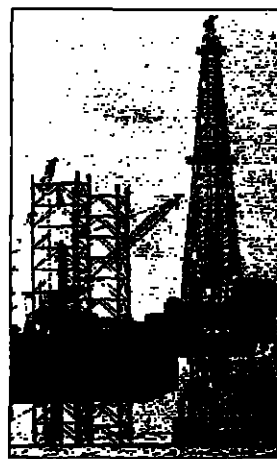
It was many years before I went back. In the meantime, Nigg was swept up in the great cycle of boom and bust which has characterised the oil revolution in Scotland ever since it began. It became like a latter-day frontier town, with armies of outside workers: welders, pipe-layers, divers and diggers, as well as cigar-chomping oil moguls and hard-eyed executives pouring in and pouring out. By the mid-1970s, a place where about 25 people once scratched a living had a labour-force of more than 2,000. Our house became the headquarters of an American company. It had indeed become a new land.

But in the process much character and identity has gone. Little fishing villages have become dormitory towns, looking more like the outskirts of Basingstoke than the clachans they once were. Farms, our neighbouring one in particular, have been handed over for development or "set-aside". Crumbling cottages have become spanking new maisonnettes. Even the firth has shrunk. Now it is a sort of marine parking lot for giant platforms which squat in the middle of it awaiting repairs. At the same time, however, there is a strange air of impermanence about the place. Nigg is only as healthy as the next platform order. So far it has survived, but for how long?

A brisk answer can be found to that, as I discovered when I returned. One woman neighbour of ours summed up the local philosophy: "Anyone who asks, 'What next?' would probably argue that you shouldn't be born because you might die. Oil has done us nothing but good. The opportunities for local people have never been better."

She cited the case of the local "grieve", or farm manager. His son won an oil scholarship to America. He himself has retired comfortably. "The children of our friends won't look at a job unless it earns them £1,000 a week," she said. The high school in the nearest town, Tain, has become a centre of excellence.

I suppose you can't argue with that, any more than Britain can seriously argue that it would have been better off without the cushion of North Sea oil to protect it from the ravages of unemployment. But as I walked along what had once been our beach, and tried to remember where the curve of the bay had once been, I can't say that my heart lifted or my spirit soared.



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A couple who went beyond the boundary

I hope the Mooneys have learnt to respect the law — even the law of countries poorer than their own

JUST imagine, for a moment, that Britain lost the war and spent 40 years under a vicious puppet Nazi government which ruined the economy and brutalised the people. Then, in a brave revolution, we recovered our independence and some rags of our dignity on the international stage. We had to accept help: American film crews came in to the dreadful asylums and orphanages the Nazis left, and went home with harrowing images of our shame. America sent money and equipment in return for heartwarming pictures.

Some of the orphans were adopted by Americans, who we hoped would treat them well. But we became afraid of being a baby-farm for the infertile couples of the West: our children were a hot property there, having the right skin colour and parents too poor to stay in touch. We were even more alarmed at the proliferation of sinister middlemen who would sell babies to all comers. Terrible things can happen to children in a decadent age. So we tightened up the rules, as best we could, with a thousand other human tragedies to see to.

But one couple from California grew impatient. They already had one of our babies and wanted another. They paid two underworld baby-brokers in a backstreet pub \$6,000 for an infant, which belonged to a teenage girl who cared so little that one might almost suspect she had had it precisely in order to supply this black market. It was not even in an orphanage.

The Americans did not think beyond their own desires, or care what trade they were encouraging. They did not even seem to consider that they were risking the happiness of the first child they adopted from our country.

Well, the police caught them heading for the Channel ports with our small compatriot snuggled contentedly under a blanket in the back of their car. So we tried them and gave them a jail sentence. There was talk of their buying themselves clear under an old law from our days of oppression; but we had repealed that, being rightly ashamed of a system where

the rich can duck prison. We tried hard to be civilised. We let them appeal, gave them bail, let them go on American television railing against us and set up heartrending photo-opportunities in which their elder adopted child cuddled the baby they tried to buy. But our reward for trying to be decent members of the international community, rather than a centre of the child slave trade, was contempt.

The couple appealed to their countrymen to "march and rally" for their freedom. Their relatives appeared all over the American media wailing that two years in a dreadful British jail would undoubtedly kill them (although, of course, they were quite strong enough to be ideal parents). They explained that the guilty pair devoted their life to their elder child (and that, conversely, they might commit suicide if they were put in prison for 28 months of that life).

The American media lingeringly described the detached home in Palo Alto, the nursery, the good food the bought child would have had. They contrasted it with the bleakness of our orphanages and they rebuked us for our poverty as only the world's rich can. They said we were taking our own collective guilt on two pure-hearted Americans. We were the baddies.

Well, for Britain read Romania; for Palo Alto, read Wokingham. Then perhaps you will see why even a sentimentalist like me (who snivelled at the TV pictures of poor little back-seat baby Monica) is not marching for the liberation of Adrian and Bernadette Mooney, the British couple under sentence in Romania.

I HOPE, of course, that they do get out; but entirely for their first child's sake. They were stupid, patronising, and recklessly inconsiderate of their elder child. Pity for their plight does not change that. I hope the Romanians are larger-hearted than the Mooneys and let them go; but also — rather optimistically — that the couple will have learnt some sense, and some respect for the law. Even the law of poorer and less secure countries than their own.



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■ For in that sleep of death what dreams may come true?

The curse of the alarm-clock radio is not only that it plunges the startled waker in medias res, but also that it plucks him *ex medias res* in order to do it. One moment you are crawling on all fours after a bus from the platform of which George Bernard Shaw is throwing ukeleles at you, the next moment Jim Naughtie is telling the Home Secretary to pull the other one. The third moment is thus spent in psychic limbo. At 6.59 on Monday morning, I was sealed in some kind of suitcase and bobbing on an unseen sea, when a sudden voice cried: "... will be here to talk about the start of National Will Week." Then the news came on. I did not listen. My head was still echoing to the remnant gobbet. Had I heard it in the suitcase, or on the radio? Was National Will Week my subconscious invention, or the Government's conscious one? The latest slogan, perhaps, of the Blue Water initiative, urging Britain on to new nosed grindstones and shouldered wheels, tote more barges, lift more bales, write more columns? Do, in short, more bit?

I ran the bath. The news concluded. And now a man was indeed there to talk about National Will Week. But he was not a Smirk of State from the Department of Codswallop exhorting us all to snatch up our shovels and hi-no into the broad sunlit uplands, he was a lawyer exhorting us all to make our wills. For that, it transpires, is the National Will Week it is.

As my body sank into the suds, its heart sank lower yet. It does that when it hears "will". Not because the word reminds it of mortality, but because it reminds it of immortality, which is far harder for a heart to handle: dead, we live on in the junk we have accumulated, and how we posthumously distribute that junk may well be how we are remembered. That is why, however much it hurts me to think of lawyers going short of a little gravity to dip their bread in, I have never commissioned a will.

Suppose I simply bequeathed everything to my wife. Free of taxes, it would be the most sensible thing to do. "What did he do?" the world would inquire. "He did the most sensible thing," it would be told. "Yes, typical," the world would respond, "that was him all over. Dull bugger." Leave it to my children? "Did you see that his son has just wrapped a Ferrari round a lamp-post?" "Doesn't surprise me, the man never had the first idea about family responsibility. I understand his daughter is currently walking home from Las Vegas."

More fraught yet are the wider bequests a will invites: if their values, whether commercial or personal, differ, all but one of my legatees will feel dissatisfied, slighted, or both; if their values are identical, even the one will feel it. A pecking-order of affection will be posthumously set up, and may, indeed, result in the miffed inheritors pecking one another. I only got his bloody watch, who got his car? "I got his car, but the steering's shot, who got his Regency desk?" "Regency? Regency? Mid-Victorian, and one iffy leg at that, he was either a liar or a fool. Sotheby's told me to try a boot-sale. I didn't know where to put my face, I'd sooner have had his car, who got his books?"

Did my old college get my books? And did its librarian shriek, "My God, he had a complete set of Archer signed first editions, can we take his degree back, how did he get in here in the first place?" Leave my old school a memorial bench? "Ungrateful bloody tightwad, where'd he have been without our A levels, we need tennis courts, we need computers, we need a staffroom snooker table."

Endow, perhaps, an annual prize? So that, on current form, *Snat* can win the award for fiction, *Cars Head on Stick* the palm for fact. For the going for peace, leaving gleeful public derision to spin me in my grave? I should better serve my memory by leaving everything to the Flat Earth Society, even if it meant an enraged Oblong Earth Society aerolining my tombstone.

"Whatever you do," begged Monday's spokesman as I towelled, "don't go to your grave intestate, leaving problems behind for your loved ones." Why not? Leaving problems behind is one of the best reasons for going.



Cursed by quotas

Politicians should be chosen on merit, not because they represent a minority

I know Tony Blair's Achilles' Heel. It is not Clause Four or the unions. It is the Monstrous Regiment, or rather not one monstrous regiment but an army of them. His weakness is the politics of the group.

After the fiasco of women-only shortlists at Blackpool, the Labour leader this week faces the same nonsense over his Shadow Cabinet elections. Backbench MPs are forced to vote for at least four women for the 18 elected posts, or their ballot papers will be disqualified. Mr Blair is then expected to nominate one of the women as "Women's Issues Spokesperson", and in due course appoint a Cabinet minister for that portfolio. Gender politics is to be entrenched in the highest council in the land. Mr Blair cannot afford to be soft on women.

Where next will Labour's "quotacrats" take their party? There is unlikely to be a black face in Mr Blair's Cabinet. If Cabinet membership is the key to political commitment, this will seem outrageous. Is Mr Blair a racist? If there should be four women's faces, there should be a black one — and if one, why not two? Next will come the Scots, the Welsh, the Geordies, the Brummies, the Cockneys. Mr Blair may protest that these groups are already "represented", as if Cabinet membership were about representation. But then so were women, and that was not considered discrimination enough. As for the physically handicapped, Mr Blair has neglected them too. There must be a wheelchair at the Cabinet table, or Labour will be against the disabled. And then a minister for gays?

Women will enjoy double representation in the upper echelons of the Labour party: as single voters and as members of a *de facto* political closed shop. This will continue into government. Other ministers are supposed to concern themselves with the whole population of Britain. "Women's issues", by definition, cuts across every other portfolio in the interests of just half of the population. As Mr Blair caves in to other sectional interests, the same will apply to them. Portfolio inflation has already increased the size of the elected element in the Shadow Cabinet from 12 members to 18. Mr Blair is clearly accepting that these members will hold office not on merit but as delegates from a sectional interest, categorised by gender, ethnicity, sexual "orientation" or disability.

Rainbow coalitions are the most enticing of political boulevards. Opposition leaders love to promenade them at

leisure. They can offer Cabinet seats here, quotas there, positive discrimination to all. For Mr Blair, such concessions are an easy alternative to pledging hard cash. Quotas cost nothing. They offer political value added, not subtracted. They appear to defy the zero-sum game of politics. The excluded majority stay silent.

In opposition, such coalitions demand only flattery. In power, they demand job quotas, privileged access, discriminatory legislation and eventually money. The pioneer of the new politics in Britain was Ken Livingstone at the GLC. He bored his colleagues near to death with his rainbow coalition theory, but he composed an impressive rainbow. He then danced in his coat of many colours down the road to financial ruin.

This sort of politics is spreading to Britain from the land of Mr Blair's hero, Bill Clinton, creature of a myriad rainbows. I cannot dismiss it out of hand. Group politics responds to a failing in "majoritarian" democracy, when the latter becomes overbearing and represses individual rights and concerns. Where an individual finds no defence in the franchise, he turns to his group. When the political ship fails to respond to the electoral wheel, the crew seek other means. Quotas and positive discrimination are one such means.

Last year, President Clinton dropped his chosen Attorney General for Civil Rights, Lani Guinier, for being too extreme on quotas. She promptly wrote a searing book, defending her view that American democracy is fundamentally unfair, challenging its more sacred tenets. One of these is the concept of geography as the basic unit for political empowerment. She sought to "reconceptualise political equality to ensure effective representation of interests, not just voters or territory". Geographical constituencies, she said, should be gerrymandered to ensure that each ethnic or other interest group is represented *pro rata* in Congress and thus "empowered".

Professor Guinier speaks to a real alienation from the political process in America. She is a priestess of pluralism. She accepts that the empowerment of interest groups "may undermine consensus, exacerbate tension and destabilise the political system". But group politics will not vanish just because it is a menace. No more will minorities turn their backs on "political correctness" just because intellectuals dismiss it in ever more derivative terms. If groups feel offended by certain language, they will fight the offence. There never was a bigger lie than that sticks and stones may break your bones but words can never hurt you.

Yet Guinier's solutions are far too extreme. Already, cities such as New York and Philadelphia have seen their voting districts redrawn to take account of what "should" be the ethnic/gender balance in the relevant

legislatures. Other forms of American positive discrimination have become a raging lunacy, much of it counterproductive. In some jobs, blacks, women and the disabled are becoming unemployable — except under legal duress. They are virtually unscakable, and sue at the merest slight personal or professional.

Defining any political economy in nakedly group terms invites odious comparison. When groups demand quota equality, rather than equality of opportunity, they cannot be surprised if others line up against them and ask why they need such a leg-up. The most explosive of all biological controversies thus restarts. Charles Murray in America and Richard Lynn in Britain are picking up where Eysenck left off, examining the intelligence, brain size and achievements of men against women and blacks against whites. This is the Pandora's Box the quotacrats have opened. If you want positive discrimination, goes the question, how much does your genetic deficiency qualify you to get? When the demons of ethnic and gender genetics come pouring over the horizon — and no

amount of censorship will stop them — I can see politicians running for cover.

The Labour Party has now plunged into the same argument. It has moved emphatically away from the Burkean concept of Parliament as composed of territorial representatives, towards that of Parliament as a centralist entrapment of group barter. From women's quotas and "women's issue spokespersons", it is a short step to a chamber composed increasingly of group representatives. If Labour Party headquarters manages to implement its ban on men standing in certain Labour seats, it will soon be expected to do the same for blacks, gays, the disabled and other interests. This is a new form of proportional representation, but it is also an infringement by the centre of local political freedom.

A radical might say that proportional representation with quotas is the first step to getting more women into Parliament. She might say, with Gavin Laird, "We detest quotas. We detest the need for quotas. But we detest discrimination even more." She might say any means justifies the end. But then she probably booed Paul Nowak at the Labour Party conference when he pleaded that candidates should be selected on merit. "Quotas merely promote hostility and suspicion," he said.

Qualification on merit may have been denied to women in the past. There are now laws in place to ban such discrimination. There is nothing to stop women standing for Parliament and battling for local nomination. That is how working-class candidates won in the past, not through "positive working-class discrimination" in the party constitution. The women who cheered quotas at Blackpool were classic reactionaries. They bayed just like the Garrick Club men who kept women from their doors, boasting their power to exclude. I wonder if they would cheer a man who tested their quota-ism under the Equal Opportunities Act? I bet they would leer that it was time he got a taste of his own medicine. To such women, two wrongs make a thundering great right.

What worries me about Mr Blair is that I sense he agrees with me but feels himself trapped. He knows that quotas are the unacceptable face of "positive ideological" politics. But he is a child of that politics. It is the heel by which his mother dipped him in the Styx. So Mr Blair, after the women, who next?

Simon Jenkins

Racism versus science

Nigel Hawkes on an explosive theory about IQ

Nothing rattles the bars of the intellectual's cage as loudly as a good row about genes and intelligence. An absolute humdinger is in progress in the United States.

Two brave scholars have published a book, *The Bell Curve*, which dares to re-examine the evidence that different ethnic groups score differently in IQ tests. One of them, Professor Richard Herrnstein of Harvard, died as the book was in the press, leaving his co-author Charles Murray to face the fury.

The book supports controversial claims that IQ scores vary between different racial groups. Many studies, it says, have demonstrated differences of about 15 points in the mean scores of black and white Americans. There is also evidence, though more equivocal, that Chinese and Japanese score significantly higher, on average, than whites. The authors of *The Bell Curve* have no doubt that these studies are substantially true.

This is volcanic stuff to American liberals, as the current issue of *The New Republic* makes plain. A ten-page essay by the two authors is followed by no fewer than 19 rejoinders by members of the magazine's staff, outraged at the editor's decision to publish it. Did somebody say that ideas no longer have the power to shock? The generation raised on the ideals of racial equality finds *The Bell Curve* impossible to stomach.

This is not because the facts about group differences in IQ are new. Indeed, they make their appearance at least once a decade. The Nobel prizewinner William Shockley, co-inventor of the transistor, made himself one of the most hated men in America by publishing the data 15 years ago. Shockley, now dead, drew racist conclusions, which Charles Murray emphatically does not.

His analysis could hardly be more dispassionate, and his message is that these differences in IQ, although real, *don't much matter*. "We put it in italics," he and Herrnstein write, "if we could, we would put it in neon lights." Naturally, this has done little to quell the furor.

Mr Murray does not pretend that IQ is destiny. He merely claims that it is better than any other single predictor of educational, economic and social outcomes. The "pariah status" of IQ scores for the past 30 years is a function of political fashion, not science, he says. There have been many attempts to explain the IQ differences between ethnic groups in terms of culture rather than intelligence. Some tests do contain obvious biases which may disadvantage the culturally deprived, white as well as black. There has also been a suspicion that tests favour the better-off, and indeed when the scores are corrected for socio-economic status, the black-white gap narrows.

But this is no surprise, because in a mobile society success is largely determined by intelligence. The more intelligent people are, roughly, the richer they are. Controlling for economic status is therefore bound to narrow IQ differences, without telling us anything significant. And in fact, Murray says, the gap is greater among blacks and whites at the top of the ladder than it is among those at the bottom.

What matters most is not the detail of the argument — which some psychologists may continue to dispute — but what conclusions we draw from it. Even if there are group differences, they tell us nothing about individuals. The curves of the distribution of IQ scores in both groups overlap: the range of scores within each group is far wider than the differences between them.

So even if the group differences are real, there are plenty of blacks who score higher than plenty of whites. Behaviour towards individuals should not be influenced by what is known or believed about the group to which they belong: that is nationalism, racism or sexism, depending upon which group is involved. Everybody has a right to be judged on his or her own merits.

To some extent, campaigners for racial equality have dug this pit for themselves by insisting on the rights of blacks as a group, rather than on the rights of black individuals. The only answer, Murray and Herrnstein argue, is "an energetic and uncompromising commitment to individualism".

To me, this makes sense. We all live with a knowledge of our own defects, yet do not despise ourselves for them. Even as we acknowledge superior intelligence in others, we get consolation from the belief, however mistaken, that we possess other qualities that they lack. The same applies to nations, and to groups within nations: you seldom find a Scot who considers the Scottish nation in any way inferior to others. What Murray calls "clannish self-esteem" comes to our rescue.

But he argues that this may not apply to groups with a history of subjugation, such as the American blacks. Their experience stunted the development of the ethnocentric rationalisations which console other groups. That may now be diminishing, he hopes, as American blacks define for themselves that mix of qualities which makes their clan unique, and, in their eyes, superior.

Nothing else, the row is a reminder that even in the absence of God, people hold their beliefs dear. But beliefs which are falsifiable are always going to be vulnerable to the workings of science. To insist that all deserve to be treated equally is a moral judgment that brooks no denial: but to argue that all are equal invites a crisp rebuttal.

Princely patch

HE HAS WRITTEN the book, made the film and now he's ploughing the profits into the land. Jonathan Dimbleby is planning to buy a new farm.

The broadcaster and royal biographer has put in an offer on a farm near to the small livestock holding in Upper Swainwick, near Bath, which for many years has been the family home.

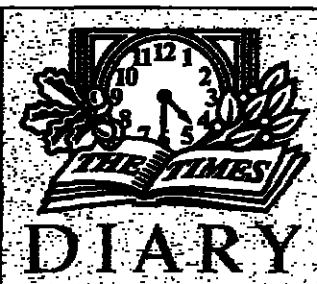
Dimbleby is no more forthcoming on details of his planned acquisition than he has been on the public reaction to his book, but his agent, Jacqueline Korn, confirms that he has been looking. "He has put in an offer on a place up the valley. They are just moving somewhere a bit more into the countryside. At the moment they are on the edge of the village and they wanted to be further away from the motorway."

Like the Prince of Wales, Dimbleby is a self-proclaimed organic farmer. His decision to move has come just as his bank balance received another fillip yesterday, with the announcement that he is to take over from Brian Walden on London Weekend Television's flagship politics programme.

The "motorway" to which his agent refers is in fact the new Bath

bypass, a dual carriageway due to run through this picturesque neck of the Avon Valley. Dimbleby, his wife, Bel Mooney, and teenage daughter, Kitty, demonstrated furiously against the project during the summer, befriending a considerable number of the great unwashed during the course of their remonstrations.

■ I am delighted to report that Ann Widdecombe, the no-nonsense employment minister, has abandoned her pudding-bowl



hairdo for a modish, close-cropped style. She is clearly preparing herself for her role as model of British womanhood at next year's UN conference on women in Peking.

Cold comforts

THE Duchess of Richmond and Gordon, whose family home is Goodwood House in West Sussex, was last night eschewing her customary stately pleasures by choosing to spend the night under the stars in a sleeping-bag outside Chichester Cathedral. Thermos and sandwiches at hand.

The occasion was a sponsored "sleep out" by 150 or so blanket-clad individuals, to help to raise £10,000 for the homeless through the Chichester Christian Care Association. The 62-year-old duchess said

yesterday that she was well prepared. "I have got sleeping-bags, horse blankets, gloves and of course a hood. It's pretty cold, but I've slept out before in similar conditions at horse-driving trials."

Balcony scene

ONE TENSE spectator whom Tony Blair could not have expected to attend his debut at Prime Minister's questions in the Commons yesterday was his barrister wife, Cherie. She pronounced herself delighted by his performance and relieved that the ordeal was over.

"He was nervous beforehand. And I didn't think I would be able to see him because I was in court," she told me on leaving the Commons, where she witnessed her husband's performance from the back of the public gallery. "Then the law lord suddenly called for an adjournment at three o'clock so I rushed along. Fate lent a hand."

Lots in store

LORD SAINSBURY of Drury Lane, the grocer who took his title from the location of the first Sainsbury shop, couldn't quite muster the puff needed to extinguish some birthday candles on Monday. Which wasn't surprising. It

would have taken a lot of puffing for anyone, let alone the 52-year-old peer, to snuff out all 125 candles on the cake made by Jane Asher to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Sainsbury's. More blowing power was provided by a trio of younger Sainsburys, David, Sir Robert Sainsbury and Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, better known to his staff as Mr John.

Fall for it

SOMETHING of a bumper week for our man in Moscow, Sir Brian Fall. Not only has he been taking



Political daughter: Catherine

care of Her Majesty during her visit to Russia, but one of his twin daughters, Catherine, has just been appointed an adviser on European policy issues at Conservative Central Office.

"I think it's going to be very exciting — and quite a challenge," predicts Catherine, 27. "We are waiting for next weekend when Dad rings and gives us the low-down. As you can imagine, he's very busy at the moment."

Chart topper

STEELY NERVES will be needed by a 12-year-old schoolgirl from Hampstead this Saturday, for she is following in the footsteps of Marilyn Monroe. She will sing a solo for the President of the United States.

Natasha Hezelgrave will give an airing of "A Castle on a Cloud" by Claude Michel Schonberg to President Clinton in the White House, as soloist with the choir of South Hampstead High School for Girls. The choir, which starts a ten-day tour taking in the White House on Saturday morning, has a winning repertoire for the President. No world leader could fail to be charmed by the Carpenters' "On Top of the World".

P.H.S



A PRIVATE DECISION

The Prince and Princess should ignore unwanted advice

In the days following publication of Jonathan Dimbleby's biography of the Prince of Wales, there have been calls from various quarters for the Prince and Princess to divorce as soon as possible. Not for the first time since the couple's separation, the threat of a "constitutional crisis" is said to hang over the nation. Decisive action is being demanded of the Prince and Princess to save the monarchy — and to protect their own dignity — they should ignore these pressures.

The royal marriage now seems to be irreparably damaged. Early hopes that some sort of entente cordiale might be established between the Prince and Princess have faded. Mr Dimbleby's biography makes clear the Prince's feeling that he was cajoled into a completely unsuitable marriage. His wife has made known her own dismay and regret. That being so, it seems quite possible — rather than inevitable — that the couple will divorce at some stage in the future.

A royal divorce is not a straightforward matter. Since the Reformation, only one divorcee, George I, has ascended to the throne. For the Prince and Princess, this option may still hold some attractions. It would not affect the Prince's future role as Supreme Governor of the Church. It would clarify the position of the Princess, who as a Queen Consort living outside the court would find herself in an odd and anomalous position. Her children might also benefit from the resolution of their parents' disagreements and the future that has accompanied them. But, as the solicitors of the Prince and Princess emphasised yesterday, they have yet to take this momentous step. The future of their marriage is a private matter; it should remain so.

This simple truth seems to have eluded many politicians, who have queued up to offer glib comments on the royal marriage. The press has often been blamed for stoking the fires of the monarchy's troubles. In this case, however, the lead has been taken by parliamentarians, whose right to pontificate on the personal affairs of the royal family is highly questionable. There has been an unstatesmanlike whiff of panic about these briefings. It is right that the absence of obstacles to a divorce be made clear. It is wrong that pressure be applied upon the couple to take the step that is open to them.

Reducing the lives of the royal family to soap opera has had the paradoxical effect of raising public expectations. Not only are the close relatives of the Queen expected to perform their public duties efficiently; they are also expected to lead model private lives in which misfortune is corrected swiftly and disagreements are easily resolved. The calls for the Prince and Princess to divorce quickly reflect this need for moral tidiness. Yet the need is irrational and unlikely to be satisfied. In public, the House of Windsor has proved an admirable custodian of the monarchy; in private its members have been less successful in running their own lives.

Politicians could perform a public service now by emphasising the distinction between the monarchy and the royal family. For evidence, they need look no further than the Queen's visit to Russia, which epitomises the virtues of a constitutional monarchy. This, far more than the failed royal marriage, is an appropriate metaphor for modern British nationhood. The marriage of the Prince and Princess is their predicament rather than ours; they should be allowed to make their own decisions with dignity.

RABIN OF ISRAEL

Britain welcomes a brave statesman and peacemaker

Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, arrived in London yesterday after a week that was mercurial even by Middle Eastern standards. His emotions and sense of strategy must have been sorely taxed by the post-mortem on the failure to rescue Sergeant Wachman alive from his extremist Palestinian captors. But peace with Jordan, which grows ever more substantial with each meeting between Mr Rabin and King Hussein, is the event by which the past week is better remembered.

The two men have constructed a basis for mutually respectful co-operation of incalculable strategic value. Such a relationship has not been possible so far between Mr Rabin and Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). But that is because Mr Rabin remains the necessary hawk to the dovish Shimon Peres in the Rabin-Arafat-Peres troika awarded this year's Nobel peace prize.

In Mr Rabin, Britain has as visitor a statesman of rare vision, who has profited from the disarray of Arab radicalism in the aftermath of the Gulf War to make peace with his neighbours. And not since the Suez crisis, when the context was altogether less felicitous, have relations between Israel and Britain been warmer. The traffic in dignitaries, always a good test in such matters, is bustling. Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, will visit Israel this week, the Duke of Edinburgh at the end of the month, and John Major later in the year. General Ehud Barak, the chief of staff of the Israeli Defence Force, recently preceded his Prime Minister in London. Links such as these will be useful if ever the region takes on a less peaceful tone again.

Mr Rabin comes bearing a powerful complaint, one which Mr Major must

address with sympathy and seriousness. The terms of Israel's trade with the European Union are still set by an agreement concluded in 1975. Much has changed since then in Israel and the EU, not only economically, and Mr Rabin's government has striven to renegotiate the entire obsolete package. Israel's trade deficit with the EU is almost \$6 billion; Greece is the only member state with which it has a favourable balance of trade. It is, as Mr Rabin has said, "high time Europe changed its attitude".

The case for a new trade compact is based not only on the argument that the existing one is inequitable. A refashioned equation would offer Israel an important peace dividend, which it would, in turn, disburse to the benefit of the region. By giving Israel better access to European markets, the EU would make a contribution to the new Middle East whose value exceeds the merely monetary. The EU has repeatedly postponed consideration of this question, citing as the reason for delay the lack of political progress on the Palestinian issue. It should now reward Mr Rabin for taking his countrymen down Israel's present courageous path.

Britain retains greater influence in Middle East questions than other European countries — and certainly more than the EU has collectively. It has not always used it even-handedly: until last month, Britain blocked Israeli membership of the EU's multibillion-dollar research and development programme. Mr Major could give no better practical proof of the new warmth in relations with Israel than to throw his full weight behind Mr Rabin's crusade for improved terms of trade. To fail to do so would not only be a mistake; it would also be an abdication of an ally's responsibility.

CIVILISE THE COMMONS

Blair should turn his modernising instincts to Westminster

Might yesterday's exchanges at Prime Minister's question time herald a small but significant shift away from the politics of the bear pit? Both Tony Blair and John Major prefaced their party political points with messages of congratulation to each other. Mr Blair, in line with his declared aim of giving credit where it is due, praised the Prime Minister's efforts in Northern Ireland, while Mr Major welcomed his opponent to his new job. Backbenchers, meanwhile, seemed to sense a different mood, and the usual jeering and cheering were relatively restrained.

If these two men can civilise the House of Commons by example, they will do the institution a great service. One reason why politicians are held in such low esteem is that their most visible twice-weekly confrontations sound like the mayhem that erupts at a boy's school assembly when the headmaster is called away to the telephone. Such puerile behaviour brings the whole process of politics into disrepute. It is not only unnecessary, but wholly undesirable.

More women in the chamber might be a civilising influence: already they seem to have quietened the laddish behaviour of Labour's front bench. But until the Commons' working hours are made more compatible with ordinary life, it will remain hard to recruit women to the job. It is disappointing, therefore, that talks over reforming hours, an issue which has been debated for at least three years, seem to have reached an impasse.

A select committee on sittings of the House of Commons, chaired by Michael Jopling,

recommended in 1991 a package of reforms, including the introduction of Wednesday morning sessions, the ending of business at 10pm and the setting of timetables for more government Bills to prevent time-wasting. This package was eminently sensible and, taken as a whole, gave no advantage to either Government or Opposition. Yet still both parties are quibbling over whether Tory MPs with outside interests should be asked occasionally to turn up on a Wednesday morning, or whether Labour MPs from the North or Scotland should be free to leave for their constituencies earlier on a Thursday.

To anyone outside the Palace of Westminster, it seems extraordinary that such a method of debating legislation could still exist in the 1990s. Most MPs now are career politicians, yet they retain a system designed for the amateur with a morning job. Bad laws are passed because MPs suffer from sleep deprivation, a common form of torture, in less civilised countries. Marriages break up and both children and parents are made miserable because the Commons sits so late. While politicians preach about the importance of family values, they are forced by the ridiculous hours of their work to be absentee parents and spouses.

If Mr Blair is serious about modernising politics and about bringing more women into his party, he could start by helping to bring the Commons itself up to date. Introducing more sense and less posturing into question time would be a start: breaking the logjam on working hours should be the next step.

The way ahead for Northern Ireland

From Mr John E. Stafford

Sir, Your leader of October 14 said that "The Conservative Party can no longer call itself a Unionist movement with honesty". This is not true of the rank and file. In an unprecedented move at the Conservative Party conference, a petition containing the signatures of 1,200 representatives was presented asking for an amendment to be added to the Northern Ireland motion.

The amendment asked the Government "actively to persuade all the people of Northern Ireland that their best future lies as full and equal citizens within the United Kingdom". The party establishment refused to allow the amendment to be debated, presumably because they feared it would be passed.

Ironically the day after the Northern Ireland debate the party chairman launched a membership campaign. Recent research by the University of Sheffield shows that the Conservative Party needs to give members a genuine say in policy-making as an incentive for people to join the party.

If the Conservative Party wishes to remain a party of mass membership it must have the maturity and confidence to allow genuine debate at its party conference.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN E. STAFFORD,
Perama, Fulmer Road,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire,
October 17.

From Mr Lance I. Sanders

Sir, Although I have no personal connection with Ireland, north or south, I was concerned that in your first editorial of October 14 you state with apparent equanimity that, whatever may be decided by a possible referendum of the North, "The moral and cultural disengagement of the mainland British from Ulster will accelerate".

The people of Northern Ireland have been staunch supporters of Britain in two world wars and have since withstood 25 years of IRA terrorism. The Protestant population exist in large measure as a result of the settlements carried out by the English; that these occurred centuries ago does not absolve us from responsibility for the troubles that have persisted until today.

Northern Ireland cannot be shrugged off but must continue to receive full support from mainland Britain until the majority in the North express the firm wish to become part of the Republic of Ireland.

Yours faithfully,
LANCE I. SANDERS,
High Barn,
Hurdle Way, Compton Down,
Winchester, Hampshire,
October 14.

From Mr Robert Freer

Sir, If the threat of terrorism has now ended please may we have Downing Street reopened as a public thoroughfare as it used to be.

Yours faithfully,
R. FREER,
14 Albyn Crescent, SE21,
October 14.

From Mr D. H. Crocker

Sir, I shall know for certain that the IRA and its associates have given up the "armed struggle" when waste and rubbish bins reappear on our stations and trains.

Yours etc,
D. H. CROCKER,
162 Hurcott Road, Greenhill,
Kidderminster, Worcestershire,
October 10.

Catholics and divorce

From the Reverend Daniel J. McLoughlin

Sir, You succeed in reinforcing a popular misconception by the headline "Pope insists divorcees cannot take Communion" (October 15). That would indeed be news. If a person is divorced and not remarried or in a sexual relationship they may go to Communion.

The Vatican letter reiterates standard Catholic teaching regarding those divorced and remarried outside the Church, that they may not receive Holy Communion.

There is a vast difference between "the divorced" and those "divorced and remarried".

Yours sincerely,
DANIEL J. MCLOUGHLIN,
Deputy Director,
Catholic Media Office,
5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow,
October 5.

Redundant coppers

From Mr J. Pegley

Sir, Further to Mr Wallis's letter (October 11), millions of man-hours must be wasted each year in counting, weighing and otherwise dealing with the cumbersome and almost valueless 1p and 2p coins, particularly by charity workers.

May I appeal to the Bank of England immediately to arrange for their withdrawal.

Yours faithfully,
J. PEGLEY,
Bridge View, Windmill Green,
Shepperton, Surrey,
October 13.

Risks of increased prison sentencing

From the Chair of the Penal Affairs Consortium

Sir, Last Friday the prison population of England and Wales was 50,108: this was 9,500 higher than at the beginning of 1993, when it had briefly fallen to 40,606 (News in Brief, October 15). This steep and sustained increase has occurred alongside the Government's progressive abandonment of its earlier policy of seeking to reduce the unnecessary use of prison sentences.

In 1990 the Government White Paper *Crime, Justice and Protecting the Public* argued that prison can be "an expensive way of making bad people worse". Yet last week the Prime Minister told the Conservative Party conference with approval that judges are now imprisoning an increasing proportion of offenders (report, October 15).

If our prisons contained 50,000 dangerous offenders from whom society needed physical protection, we would have no alternative but to cope with such a high prison population. But the growing mood of harshness is now leading to the imprisonment of an increasing number of non-violent and minor offenders for whom community sentences would be a better option.

Police pensions

From Chief Superintendent A. C. Howlett-Bolton

Sir, I note your report (October 8) on alleged abuse of police pensions. In common with others it concerns itself with effect rather than cause. There can be no doubt that medical retirements from the police are on the increase, but at the most basic level there are three significant causes.

The first relates to the increasing amount of injury caused by violent assault: the second to heightened stress caused by unrealistic demand and expectation from both within and without the service.

The last relates to one of the negative consequences of increased civilisation, which has reduced the ability of senior management to place officers in non-operational roles. Under the current rules (where you are either fit for full duty or you are not) officers are prematurely medically retired.

Rather than making over-simplistic comments which blame the individual, one needs to re-examine the appropriateness of the current all-encompassing criteria for retirement and to re-establish non-operational positions which allow officers to continue to utilise their skills and experience, gained over many years, in the service of the public.

If there is an abuse of the medical retirement system, as the Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire seems to suggest, then parties to such abuse must include the force medical officers who make independent recommendations and chief constables who authorise them on behalf of police authorities.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY C. HOWLETT-BOLTON
(Chairman, 'D' District,
The Police Superintendents'
Association of England
and Wales)

Thames Valley Police Station,
Castle Street, Reading, Berkshire,
October 8.

Tourists in trouble

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,
Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Sir, Harvey Elliott ("Why tour operators are truly 'powerful'", *Travel News*, October 13) is wrong to suggest that the Foreign Office fails to do "all that is necessary" for the British tourist in trouble.

Within minutes of natural or man-made disasters tour operators (and the Federation of Tour Operators) are on the phone to the Foreign Office for guidance. We did not remain "mute" on the Indian plague scare, nor did we "confuse the industry and the public". We gave clear objective advice, as we do on over 100 countries — quickly.

Our advice is distributed very widely throughout the travel industry. Our travel advice unit receives about 600 calls a day from the public. Travel advice is also available on CeeFax and to travel agents.

We do of course work very closely with the FTO. We have common concerns in seeing that the safety of British nationals is paramount.

Sincerely,
TONY BALDREY,
Foreign & Commonwealth Office,
London SW1,
October 13.

Brewer's rats

From Mr Michael Brewer Hamilton

Sir, I would suggest that "rats" (letters, October 7, 13, 15), one of the few expletives allowed me in my youth with which to express irritation at some failure, derives from the French *raiter*, to misfire or go wrong, especially *raité* — "missed!". Perhaps it arrived with the tennis balls presented by the Dauphin to Henry V and which possibly account for another more frequent demotic expression.

Yours sincerely,
M. B. HAMILTON,
9 Carberry Avenue, Exmouth, Devon,
October 14.

The Penal Affairs Consortium represents 23 organisations concerned with the penal system, including prison governors, prison and probation officers, resettlement agencies and penal reform groups. We are all of the view that the over-use of prison hinders rather than helps the fight against crime.

Excessive numbers prevent the prison service from providing full and positive regimes for all prisoners which can equip them to lead law-abiding lives on release. Moreover, in an overstretched system many prisoners are transferred far from their home areas, reducing contact with families and increasing dissatisfaction and tension in prisons.

If we want to reduce the risk of increased reoffending on release and further disturbances in prison, we must return to a policy of using prison sparingly. Only by doing so can we enable the prison service to work properly with a manageable number of prisoners.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CAVADINO, Chair,
Penal Affairs Consortium,
169 Clapham Road, SW9,
October 17.

Organ donor cards

From Mr David Poulter and Mr Frank Howarth

Sir, The National Kidney Federation, the only kidney charity which represents the view of kidney patients by consultation with its members, does not support the condemnation by the British Kidney Patients Association of the new computerised organ donor register (reports, October 7, 10; letters, October 10).

After many years of lobbying for such a register we welcome this move by the Department of Health. However, in order to give the scheme a chance of success it is very important that an on-going high-profile publicity campaign is properly funded by the Department.

The lack of easy access to donor cards has always been a problem and we do not want the new scheme to fail through lack of commitment to promoting it. We are urging the minister to ensure that adequate funding is allocated on a permanent basis. We also believe that the training of intensive-care staff should be improved and better funded, so that potential donors are not missed.

Organ donation is a wonderful gift which brings new life to many sufferers of kidney failure. We believe that donation should be freely given without any element of compulsion. In this way, not only are lives saved, but some comfort is brought to relatives of the deceased who can see some good come from their tragedy.

Registration forms are available from GP surgeries, post offices and other public places. We urge your readers to register to become organ donors after their death and to make sure that their families know their wishes.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID FOULTER,
FRANK HOWARTH
(Co-chairmen, National Federation of Kidney Patients Associations),
6 Stanley Street,
Workshop, Nottinghamshire,
October 17.

Role of airports

From Mr Roger Lascelles

Sir, A significant factor contributing to the crowding at Heathrow (letters, October 5, 6, 13) is the absence of an effective international airport serving the South West of England and South Wales, an area containing some six to seven million people.

Airports north of London, and at Gatwick, are of great local convenience and draw traffic from Heathrow.

But what seems to be needed to complete the pattern is an airport in the South West which, in addition to helping the nearby population fly to Europe, might also be seen as a gateway airport for a slice of the US traffic. Such a regional airport based near, say, Yeovil could also be linked by high speed train to Paddington.

Despite independent and valiant efforts at Bristol, Bournemouth and Exeter, there is inadequate patronage at these local airports to justify the frequencies most people want. By clubbing together, they could have a formidable regional operation.

Yours etc,
ROGER LASCELLES,
3 Holland Park Mansions,
16 Holland Park Gardens, W14,
October 13.

From Mr David Climie

Sir, If Bernard Levin and Adrian Room had researched a little further into Brewer's they would have found that "rats" is derived from "drat" — which in turn is derived from "God rot it!".

Why and how the rat became plural I can't tell, drat it!

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CLIMIE,
32 Cranley Mews,
Old Brompton Road, SW7.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Compulsory team games in schools

From the Principal of Wymondham College

Sir, Many parents of state school pupils will applaud John Major's commitment to compulsory team games (report, October 15), but the schools will find it more difficult. Rugby football is probably best placed, with the strong financial backing of the RFU to encourage more state schools to join the elite handful that are already good enough for their results to be reported in your columns.

Cricket will be more difficult: it is surely the team game *par excellence*, allowing the highest number of players to indulge in the least activity for the longest time, not to mention the vagaries of the English summer. But at least there is some money from the TCCB to encourage experiments in novel forms more suitable for children keen to play. In sports like netball, however, our girls actually have to pay for the privilege of being selected to train and compete at county and national levels.

Independent schools have always recognised the need for adequate funding for competitive sport. The state sector meanwhile tries to maintain fixture lists on tick-shop profits and PTA jumble sales.

There is a further irony in the Government's wish to encourage sport by making it compulsory to 16, linked to the idea of establishing centres of sporting excellence on the Millfield model. That school, with its international reputation for producing champions, has a policy of non-compulsory games.

Even in the military, it is fitness that is compulsory, not the playing field. Perhaps the nation's future health would be better served by circuit training and aerobics for all.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HADEN, Principal,
Wymondham College,
Wymondham, Norfolk,
October 15.

From Mr John Munkman

Sir, One of the most objectionable features of old-fashioned schools was the obsession with cricket and rugby to the exclusion of everything else. The new policy will be unacceptably narrow unless it allows such options as athletics and cross-country running.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MUNKMAN
(Vice-President,
Leeds City Athletic Club),
10 Park Square,
Leeds, West Yorkshire,
October 14.

Iraq sanctions

From Mr John L. Marshall, MP for
Hendon South (Conservative)

Sir, Those who, like Elizabeth Young (letter, October 10), criticise Israel for putting out of action the Basra reactor should ask themselves if the world would be a safer place if Saddam Hussein had a nuclear capacity.

He used Scud missiles to kill innocent civilians in a non-combatant country, Israel, in 1991. He has terrorised his own people. He has flouted international law. Would he hesitate to use nuclear weapons if he had them?

Israel should be commended for making the world a safer place by removing his nuclear potential.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN L. MARSHALL
(Chairman, Anglo-Israel Association),
House of Commons.

Question time

From Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, QC,
MP for Perth and Kinross
(Conservative)

Sir, There is a very easy answer to stopping "rowdiness" at Prime Minister's question time, without swallowing yet another of the Leader of the Opposition's pleas for lovely peace and goodwill: make it mandatory to state the real question (the supplementary) and then we won't waste four hours of the Prime Minister's time twice a week on crystal-gazing guesswork and incalculable civil servants' costs.

If I intend to ask why the Opposition eat dogs in secret on Sundays, why not disclose my hand?

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS FAIRBAIRN,
House of Commons.

Brothers in law

From Mr M. A. S. A. Khan
and family

Sir, Following your heart-warming article and photograph of October 14, please allow us to congratulate the Sheridan family on the call of Brian to the Bar, where he will join his three brothers, and extend a warm welcome to the four of them on behalf of our family to that most exclusive club, "Tennis anyone?"

Yours faithfully,
M. A. S. A. KHAN
(Lincoln's Inn, 1951),
SHALIMAR KHAN-TURNER
(Lincoln's Inn, 1985),
AVERROES KHAN
(Lincoln's Inn, 1986),
FRANS KHAN
(Lincoln's Inn, 1991),
CORNELIUS KHAN
(Lincoln's Inn, 1993),
83 Stonecot Hill, Sutton, Surrey.

OBITUARIES

BARBARA GRIGOR

Barbara Grigor, Scottish film-maker and exhibition organiser, died in Edinburgh from cancer on October 17 aged 50. She was born in Glasgow on June 16, 1944.

BARBARA GRIGOR was a major contributor to the Scottish arts scene for more than 15 years. As a maker of drama and documentary films, an organiser of exhibitions, and a passionate supporter of sculpture, she was a formidable promoter of public art in Scotland, while, with her husband Murray, she battled against the mediocre and second-rate.

Her death robs Scotland of a woman of great creative talent, who also had the ability to make things happen — often in the teeth of apathy or even outright hostility. She will be remembered for her innovative films, her chairmanship of the Scottish Sculpture Trust and for the major exhibitions she staged, notably the Eduardo Paolozzi retrospective in 1984 which went on to tour five countries, and the George Rickey exhibition in 1982 which spread the works of this under-represented kinetic sculptor along both banks of the Clyde in Glasgow in 1980.

Above all perhaps she will be remembered as a woman of great warmth, great energy, and a love of people and the arts which stimulated not only audiences but the artists themselves.

Joan Barbara Sternschein was born in Glasgow, the daughter of Rudi and Lene Sternschein, Jewish refugees who had fled from Austria after Hitler's Anschluss. She was educated at Laurelsbank School and later St Andrews University where she graduated in French and German. She taught at Summerhill, A. S. Neill's celebrated progressive school in Suffolk.

She married Murray Grigor, then a BBC film editor, in 1963. From then on she and Murray collaborated on a number of significant film projects in Scotland, while she herself produced and initiated exhibitions, documentaries and dramas. She and Murray created at their home in Inverkeithing overlooking the Firth of Forth — where they lived for 25 years — a place of great charm filled with extraordinary objects where you were always likely to meet a scattering of creative people.



film-makers, sculptors, writers and artists from all over the world.

It was however to Scotland and the Scottish cultural scene that the Grigors dedicated themselves, and this was often a battleground. For Barbara was not interested in easy causes, in promoting the mediocre or the predictable. The very first project that she and Murray were involved in together, soon after they married, was a film about the then virtually unknown architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh. When BBC Scotland proved reluctant to embark on it, she encouraged Murray to look elsewhere, and found a willing collaborator in Stephen Hearst, a refugee from Vienna who had heard

about Mackintosh in Austria despite the lack of recognition in his home town.

She saw in the sculptor George Wyllie a serious artist and gave him the encouragement he needed to develop his unique style. Her production of *A Day Down the Goldmine* which won a Fringe first at the Edinburgh Festival in 1965, drew together Wyllie, Bill Paterson and the director Kenny Ireland in a remarkable synthesis of disparate talents. The film, *The Why's Man* (1990) placed Wyllie on the cultural map.

Among her other significant exhibitions were *Scotland Creates — Five Thousand Years of Art and Design* in

1990, and her films included *The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright* (1983) and *Irony Curtain* (1990), for Channel 4 on the 20th-century art and politics of the United States and the Soviet Union.

Actors and artists together loved working with her. Eduardo Paolozzi whose retrospective she staged in 1984 paid tribute to her sheer guts in raising money and persuading a reluctant director to put it on. She needed tact and diplomacy to handle the artist himself, charm and persistence in persuading businessmen to release funds, and commitment in realising the vision that led not only to the exhibition but to the subsequent film *E. P. Sculptor* which won the 1992 Rodin prize at the Paris Biennale.

She felt that too many people in Scotland were "pioneering old hat" — producing what they thought was innovation but which she knew was already being done elsewhere. She liked challenging myths and was particularly perceptive in puncturing the great industry that had grown up around Scottish kitsch. It was her and Murray's idea to stage for Channel 4 the ultimate antithesis of the Hogmanay TV show, *Scotch Myths* (1981), written and directed by Murray and featuring Robbie Coltrane, Samuel Fuller, Chic Murray and Bill Paterson, which exposed what she called "the residue of fatigued romanticism and home-grown caricature which is still very much alive today". It was perhaps her Jewish background that helped to give her the kind of insight that allowed both affection for the stereotype and the need to expose it.

Her courage towards the end as she fought cancer was extraordinary. She knew that she was ill last year, even as she embarked on one of her most complex and difficult films, *Blue Black Permanent*. She needed to weld together every resource, both financial and artistic, as well as smoothing over fraught relationships and fighting her way through political difficulties. That she achieved it at all is remarkable, that she did so while combating her disease was heroic. She leaves a gap in the Scottish cultural scene that will never quite be filled.

Barbara Grigor is survived by her husband and two daughters.

DR DAVIDSON NICOL



Davidson Nicol, educator, scientist, diplomat, novelist, died in Cambridge on September 20 aged 70. He was born in Bathurst Village, Sierra Leone, on September 14, 1924.

ON THE relatively small stage of Sierra Leone, Davidson Nicol was a colossal figure, a man whose protean talents as writer, scientist and university administrator made him an invaluable diplomat for his country. In the immediate decade after Sierra Leone had been made a fully independent state within the Commonwealth in 1961, Nicol was a passionate advocate for the idea of the Commonwealth as a uniting force among Africa's diverse racial groups. He continued to search for answers to the continent's many complex problems in his later incarnation as Sierra Leone's Ambassador to the United Nations.

As a writer under the pen-name of Abioseh Nicol, he was also one of his country's best-known contemporary authors. His fictional works drew on traditional stories and poems, and were published as a trilogy: *The Truly Married Woman*, *The Devil at Yolahun Bridge*, *The Leopard Hunts*. His non-fiction included *A Subjective View* (1964), *Africanus Horton and Black Nationalism* (1969), *New and Modern Roles for Commonwealth and Empire* (1976) and *Nigeria and the Future of Africa* (1980).

The culmination of his academic career was his appointment, at the unprecedentedly youthful age of 36, as Principal of Sierra Leone's Fourah Bay College — the first of his countrymen to hold that position. Founded in 1827 and affiliated to Durham University in 1876, this was the oldest institution of higher education

in Africa south of the Sahara.

Davidson Sylvester Hector Willoughby Nicol was the son of a musician. He was educated at the Prince of Wales School in Freetown, where the English headmaster spotted the boy's enormous potential and encouraged him to study science. He did so on a scholarship to Christ's College, Cambridge, where he got a first in natural sciences in 1947 (and where, in 1956, he was the first black African to be elected a Fellow of his old college). He took a second degree there in medicine.

After an impressive academic track record at Cambridge, he returned to Africa in the early 1950s, to teach at Ibadan University Medical School in Nigeria, and began his research into tropical malnutrition. He returned to Cambridge in 1954 and studied the chemical structure of insulin, before returning to Sierra Leone, and to Fourah Bay College in 1960.

In some ways he saw his

eight years there as Principal as the high point of his career. Until then, Fourah Bay had been little more than one of many such colleges affiliated to Durham, a far-flung example of that university's 19th-century educational policy in the colonies. From the year that Nicol took office, however, the college was reconstituted as the University College of Sierra Leone. New buildings were erected, more facilities and research initiated and Kortright House, built in the 1890s, rescued from the pile of rubble it was rapidly becoming and turned into the Principal's official residence. It was fitting that the college's coming of age coincided with Sierra Leone's new independent status in 1961.

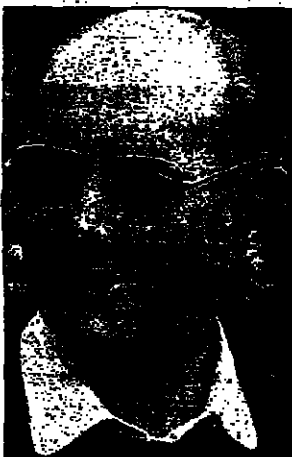
Nicol left in 1968 to make way for new blood, and was immediately dispatched to the UN as permanent representative, where he did much to raise the profile of Sierra Leone during the country's spell as a non-permanent member of the Security Council and as a member of the Economic and Social Council. He served as president of the Security Council in September 1970.

From New York he was transferred to London as Sierra Leone's High Commissioner. He returned to New York in 1972 as executive director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (Unitar), and remained in the post for a decade.

After his retirement from Unitar in 1982, he settled in Giron, Cambridge. He loved regaling students there with stories about life at the UN headquarters, and was finally rewarded for his work at the UN with the honorary presidency of the World Federation of UN Associations in 1987.

He had three sons and two daughters from his marriage, which ended in divorce.

MACKENZIE DAVEY



Mackenzie Davey, psychologist, died on September 19 aged 72. He was born on August 19, 1922.

MACKENZIE DAVEY was one of the few psychologists trusted by the business community to assess the suitability of candidates for senior management posts. He was respected for his readiness to express his views — not always what his clients wanted to hear — in plain English, and while making use of psychological tests in carrying out his assessments, he understood their limitations.

Douglas Mackenzie Davey — always known as "Mac" — came from mixed Cornish and

Scottish stock, and grew up in South Africa. He studied medicine but changed to psychology after he returned at the end of the Second World War, which took him, as a member of the South African Medical Corps, to North Africa and Italy.

He worked for the National Institute for Personnel Research and then had a job in the gold mining industry before coming to Britain in the 1950s.

The National Institute of Industrial Psychology gave him an initial base in London and he subsequently worked for some of the major management consultancies. But he was an independent man and set up his own firm in 1962, specialising in the assessment of senior managers.

His publications, which were widely translated, were directed at the general reader. Those on interviewing were essentially practical; other books aimed to answer the layman's questions about the more esoteric techniques — ranging from astrology to graphology — which have been employed to assess personality (though he did not use these techniques himself).

In his spare time, he was a great lover of cricket. He is survived by his wife Denise, his daughter and his son.

Fred Lebow, creator of the New York City marathon race, died of brain cancer at his New York home on October 9 aged 62. He was born in Arad, Romania, on June 3, 1932.

FRED LEBOW was in love with running, and it showed. The only difference between his participating in a race and making a deal in the New York garment district, where he earned his living, was in his style of dress: at work he wore a suit with his running shoes. An Orthodox Jew who was born Fischl Lebowitz, Lebow came to the United States via Czechoslovakia, Holland and Ireland, after surviving the Nazi occupation of Romania and escaping before the Soviet occupation at the end of the Second World War. Arriving in the early 1960s, he attended the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan and spent brief periods in Kansas City and Cleveland before returning to New York.

At the time tennis was his sporting interest, but he hated losing. So he tried distance running to improve his stamina, and it changed his life. In 1970, using \$300 of his own money, Lebow staged the first-ever New York City Marathon. Confined to Central Park, the race attracted 127



runners, of whom only 55 finished the course, and received little attention.

But Lebow, who ran in 13 marathons that year, pressed on with the event. In 1976, in celebration of America's bicentennial, he expanded the mar-

athon to run through all five of New York City's boroughs and attracted more than 2,000 runners. The event was now becoming so big that Lebow had to give up participating in it in order to concentrate on the organisation of thousands of participants from dozens of countries as the popularity of road racing spread. By 1985 the New York City Marathon had overtaken the London Marathon as the largest in the world, with 15,881 finishers. It reached its peak in 1989 with 24,996 starters, of whom 24,314 finished the course. World records were broken by Grete Waitz of Norway in 1978, 1979 and 1980, and by Alberto Salazar of the United States and Allison Roe of New Zealand in 1981.

And then, in 1990, Fred Lebow was stricken with brain cancer. But he was not

finished yet. In 1992, though gaunt and weakened by his treatment, Lebow not only organised the marathon — he ran in it as well. Accompanied every step of the way by Grete Waitz, he finished the course in five hours 32 minutes 34 seconds. The winners had crossed the finish line more than two hours before, but a huge crowd had waited to cheer him home.

As president of the New York Road Runners Club for more than 20 years, Lebow also helped to develop the Fifth Avenue Mile, the Leggs mini-marathon for women only, and the Empire State Building Run-Up — a race up 1,550 steps. He was inducted into the US National Track Hall of Fame in a special ceremony last August.

He is survived by three brothers and two sisters.

HARRY KEMP

Harry Kemp, poet and teacher, died on September 2 aged 82. He was born on December 11, 1911.

HARRY KEMP was the last survivor of that remarkable band of poets who gathered around Laura Riding and Robert Graves in the 1930s. These also included Norman Cameron, James Reeves and Alan Hodge. Like theirs, the poetry of Harry Kemp was quiet in tone, anti-modernist, related to that of Hardy, and pervasively influenced by Riding.

Henry Vincent Kemp was educated at Stowe, and at Clare College, Cambridge, where he took a degree in mathematics. He spent most of his life teaching that subject at various schools in what he called his "spare time". His real work he regarded as poetry, and this he wrote in the early mornings and in the holidays.

He and his then wife, a German refugee called Alix, shared a house at Ewhurst in Surrey with Riding and Graves — with whom he hoped to collaborate — in 1937. Richard Perceval Graves's biography of his uncle prints a snapshot of the young Harry on the lawn: athletic, stripped to the waist, a huge pipe clenched between his teeth. Subsequently the quartet were neighbours in London, but the friendship between Riding and Kemp deteriorated rapidly. With the fall of France, Kemp, until then a conscientious objector, joined the Royal Artillery, but served through most of the war as a radar officer with the RAOC.

After the war he pursued his profession as a poet in a highly amateur way. He was described by Hugo Williams in *The Times Literary Supplement* as "an elderly gentleman with an imperious manner".

Like many poets who feel that they have not received their

due meed of recognition, he could be cantankerous. But he was also one of the best lyric poets of the 1970s and 1980s, and has left behind seven volumes of verse to prove it.

Robert Nye in *The Times* wrote of the *Collected Poems* of 1985: "Here is a poet whose work, packed with hard thought, at one with strong feeling, strikes me as... part of the great tradition of English poetry." He quoted "Catalpa", perhaps Kemp's best poem, and a good description of his process of work, as Kemp could hardly be accused of undue precocity.

The tree of heaven is the last to leaf, After the oak, weeks later than may or beech. I have watched cautiously as pressure built Within the steel-grey buds, while daffodil And white bell flower and will: Like one reluctant ever to spill Or improvise happiness, or break From precarious silence into speech.

One could also mention such poems as "Time in the Mind", "Learning of Luck" and "Lost Buttercups". This last ends with the lines: "We who praised the buttercups/Are now coerced to pause and choose:/This home-stead's vain fecundity./The golden pollen on our shoes."

Alexis Lykiard said of *Poems of Erato*, a collection of 1990, "witty, ironic, colloquial... lyrical, but with an edge". He quoted a characteristic Kemp epigram. "Un-said: 'One last look, then close the door./Two things unsaid being understood:/That what we had was once so good./And what we had we have no more.'"

Harry Kemp was, in his own words "successfully married and divorced twice". He is survived by his daughter and his son.

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M. RAVEL IN LONDON.

CONCERT AT THE QUEEN'S HALL. M. Maurice Ravel gave a concert of his own music at the Queen's Hall yesterday, which was not as well attended as it might have been, though small numbers were made up for by enthusiasm. M. Ravel's charm is something elusive and inscrutable. He draws his own portrait, to begin with, on the cover of his programme — a face with no illusions in it, no dreams of nonsense, practical in every line. Then he writes the words of his own song. "Nicolette" — firm, brief, and pointed. Then he conducts with a wrist as steady and supple and with as much economy of unnecessary motions as a man might practise with his razor. Lastly, he plays the piano in the low-pitched tone of ordinary conversation, as if he were merely telling you the common sense of the matter.

Besides all this he writes music, and is thought to have made some fame with it. It is no music of the passions; it years after no infinite; it takes a simple delight in the curious variety of things and the whimsicalities of persons on this good brown earth, as an interested spectator, not as a maestro or a moralist. It is grotesquely detached and vividly true.

ON THIS DAY

October 19 1923

London concertgoers were fortunate to have the chance to hear Maurice Ravel and Walter Gieseking — then in his twenties — in the same week. Gieseking was later to become admired for his playing of Ravel's music.

The quartet tinkled and sparkled in that large hall. Sostenuto passages like the first movement asserted themselves nobly, pizzicato passages like the scherzo could still be heard with the mind's ear. The septet had more body: Miss Gwendolen Mason's harp cadenza was a remarkable performance. One could not find very much to say for M. Victor Brault's voice: he seemed to feel it a strain to get some of the notes. But one would not have missed that beautiful diction for worlds, and one does not often hear such thorough understanding of poet and composer. The "Jeux d'eau" and the "Sonatine" are always

with us, it is true, but M. Pol-Morin managed, with his responsive Erard, to set them in a new light.

MR. WALTER GIESEKING

Mr. Walter Gieseking, who made his first appearance in London at the Aeolian Hall on Monday, is credited with a great reputation on the Continent. He is probably a greater pianist than the nature of the programme allowed us to determine, making us feel by the surety of his technique and style that he might do great things with great material. There was no opportunity of testing his interpretative power, his hold over the feelings of his audience, in a scheme which consisted chiefly of small movements. The one sonata was the fourth of Scriabin. Bach was only represented by the English Suite in D minor, and Schumann by the "Waldszene". We listened and admired, but could hardly be expected to be enthusiastic. Mr. Gieseking's skill is great enough in some ways, for example, in his command over piano tones, and his pianissimo now and then becomes as nearly nothing as is possible to imagine. The Bach was played with perfect clarity, and his tone gradations here and in the Debussy pieces were masterly. What these qualities can do for him in a really big programme remains to be seen.

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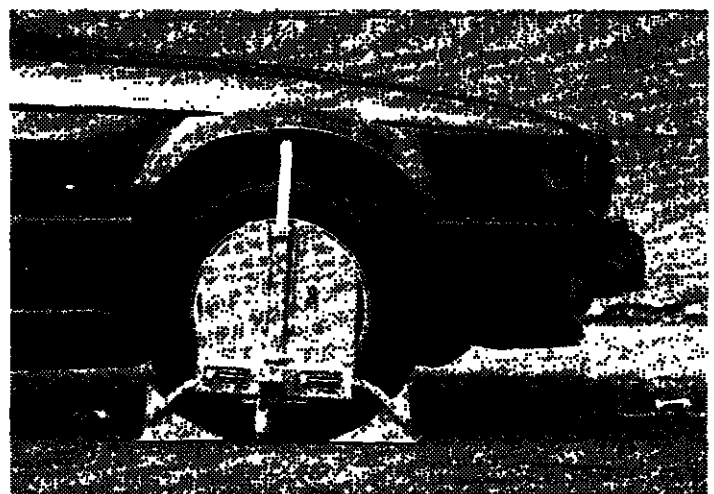
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【الطاقة】

The market moves up a gear

The recovery in the London commercial property market has been a frustratingly long time coming, but there is now sufficient evidence across the sector to show that 1993 saw the bottom of the cycle and 1994 is the year in which lines on the graphs are turning up.

Last year, office vacancy rates reached their peak and rents reached their lowest. In 1988, rents were at their height - up to £67.50 a sq ft in the City and £70 a sq ft in the West End. They subsequently plummeted to £32.50 in the City and £40 in the West End.

In its review for the third quarter of this year, Jones Lang Wootton, the international property consultants, reports that it "will be remembered as the period when rents in the City recorded the first increase in almost five years". They point to an increase in take-up of space, an increase in demand for the seventh consecutive quarter, with banks the main players, and an upward trend in investment.

The vacancy rate in the City averages 13.6 per cent (down from a peak of 19 per cent) but it is only 3.8 per cent for new buildings, and with a lack of development during the recession, and with the particular shortage of large buildings, the market is seeing selective shortages for the first time since the mid-1980s.

Remaining wisely cautious, J.L.W. concludes: "The current supply/demand balance is conducive to ongoing rental improvement, but the recovery could stall if the conversion rate from demand to take-up falls."

The picture is similar in the West End, where new space vacancy is down to 1.6 per cent, prompting the consultants to assert that the latest figures "provide further evidence of a recovery. A year end total above 1993 is now firmly in prospect."

J.L.W.'s view of the market is reflected by other leading firms of consultants. Chris



Christopher Warman asks the professionals what business they expect to be doing in the West End and the City

Jones, director of Chesterton's City office, says: "While on the surface July and August appeared relatively quiet months for the City office market, evidence of sustained activity emerged during September. This indicates continued improvement albeit at a slower rate than the more optimistic commentators had been predicting in the early part of the year."

He notes a number of significant events in the City market to support this view. Most notable is Baring Brothers' acquisition of 60 London Wall, which is due to be signed in the next few days. The deal involves all 235,000 sq ft of Scottish Widows' development, at a reported rent of £35 a sq ft, with 18 months' free rent on a long lease. "The rent is probably the highest level achieved this year in a major City letting and arguably the inducement of 18 months' rent free is significantly less than might have been anticipated. However, it is believed that Scottish Widows may be taking on liability for some of Baring's existing accommodation as part of the package," Mr Jones says.

Other straws in the wind include rumours that Banque Paribas is close to signing for part of the redevelopment of the former Daily Mirror building at Holborn Circus, thought

to involve the purchase of about 300,000 sq ft for the bank's own occupation.

In the first major pre-let of the imminent development cycle, Martin Landau's Development Securities has purchased Britannic House West from EIE's Japanese bankers while securing Robert Finch and Linklaters & Paines as tenants for over 300,000 sq ft of the 450,000 sq ft building.

The "imminent" development cycle can be discerned at No 1 Poultry, where demolition for the controversial Peter Palmbo/Dieter Bock scheme, providing 100,000 sq ft of offices, is nearly complete. With demolition at Winchester House (Wates City and Friends Provident's scheme for 255,000 sq ft) and works at Markborough's 200,000 sq ft Thames court next to Vintners Place in progress, the three projects will provide the City market with about 550,000 sq ft of the highest quality space.

In the midtown area, which stands between the City and the West End, Charles Killen of Chesterton reports that the high level of take-up of new space at the beginning of the year has left a shortage of top-quality, air-conditioned, office accommodation. As a result, many landlords are reviewing their

letting strategies and may increase quoting rents. For example, at the International Press Centre in Shoe Lane, London EC4, where Chesterton and Knight Frank & Rutley are acting for the landlord Glenbrook Ltd, the quoting rent has been increased from £19.50 to £24.50.

Confidence has grown steadily throughout the year, with many tenants adopting a positive property strategy in anticipation of the need for extra space over the next two years. Many who had previously squeezed into existing buildings by careful space planning have started to take expansion space on short-term leases or have activated searches for new buildings," he says.

Looking at the investment market in Mayfair and St James, James MacLachlan, Chesterton's director of West End investment, says there has been a shortage of quality property coming onto the market during the summer. "As the supply of available investments has dwindled, property companies and institutions have sought buildings that provide short-term income, or occasionally vacant property, depending on location, with potential for redevelopment in the near future."

In addition, speculative funding is also being considered by institutions, but generally only in prime positions and at today's rent and yield, Mr MacLachlan reports.

He argues that top-rented properties are likely to retain their popularity among foreign and UK investors. Similarly, well-located properties let on short leases, with redevelopment potential, will continue to attract institutions and property companies.

The professional view overall for the City and the West End of London, traditional leaders of the commercial property market, is thus optimistic. The market indications are all increasingly positive, they say.



Swedes sweep in

In the first major investment transaction by a Swedish investor in the central London market since 1990, the National Swedish Pension Fund, AP Fund, has acquired a long leasehold in 1 Angel Court in the City. The AP Fund paid the Clothworkers' Company close to the £60 million asking price for the leasehold interests in the building, which is owned jointly with Sumitomo Life International (UK).

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مكة امه الاصل

Christopher Warman reports on the ambitious plans up and down the country

Stirrings of activity in the market are not confined to London. A number of schemes planned or under way around the United Kingdom indicate a growing confidence among developers.

In Leeds, work has started on City West — the city's £50-million state-of-the-art office park on a 24-acre site adjacent to the M62 and the outer ring road — being built to attract national and international employers to the city.

The site, which has outline planning consent, will be one of the region's biggest out-of-town office parks, and when completed City West will include four new office blocks for 2,000 employees, with 1,800 parking spaces. Construction and landscaping of the site will create 1,000 jobs and the buildings will use the latest technology to ensure low running costs.

Two of the existing buildings will be re-clad and retained for Yorkshire Electricity which owns the site.

David Carr, divisional director of property for Yorkshire Electricity, says: "An office park such as this has not yet been built in the region. Businesses up and down the country and all over the Continent are looking for sites such as City West. It has excellent access to both the M1 and M62 as well as the city centre."

There will also be plenty of car parking spaces. "Car parking is a major issue for businesses which are thinking of expanding or relocating," adds Mr Carr. "Space in city centres is at a premium, but City West offers five car spaces to every 1,000 square feet of office

Great projects within sight



Artist's impression of Land Securities' retail-based scheme

space, an extremely high level. That, coupled with an efficient workforce, which has already attracted many businesses to the area, means that City West will be a tremendous success and bring yet more prosperity to the region."

Fletcher Joseph, the architect, is

finalising the design of the buildings and the agents are St Quintin and Knight Frank & Rutley.

In Birmingham, Land Securities has submitted a planning application to the city council for proposals to revitalise an area in the city centre at the corner of New Street

and Corporation Street, opposite New Street Station.

Formerly the headquarters of the Birmingham Post & Mail, the upper parts of the buildings have been empty for about 30 years. Land Securities' proposals, for a predominantly retail-based scheme plus offices, provide for retention and restoration of the existing facades with new build behind.

The scheme has been conceived to respond to the shortage of new supply in Birmingham and to consolidate the city's position as a major regional retail centre. The proposals are in line with the council's programme of improving this part of the city and also reflect government policy on renewing city centres through retail investment and development to help them to compete successfully with out-of-town retailing.

If planning permission is granted, work will start during 1995, with completion by autumn 1996.

Not all development is offices and shops, however. Newbury and District Agricultural Society, Berkshire, has unveiled plans for an exhibition, cultural, sporting and entertainment centre, the Newbury Arena. Outline planning consent has been granted, and the arena will be built on the society's showground at Chieveley. It will hold up to 7,000 people for a variety of events in addition to the society's own requirements.

Sir Peter Michael, president of the society, says the £4.5-million arena is an ambitious project "which will potentially bring benefits not only to the society but also for employment, business and as a focus of attraction to the town".

The million-pound restoration

BUILT in 1845 and once the home of the Conservative Club, 74 St James's Street, London SW1, is for letting at £950,000 a year after a £1 million restoration and refurbishment, through Hillier Parker and Baring Houson & Saunders. The 48,000 sq ft building was occupied until last year by the international management consultants McKinsey and Company.

Freehold deal

LIVERPOOL Victoria Friendly Society, advised by Grimley J.R. Eve, has acquired the freehold of 1 Bishopsgate in the City from Masterston Properties, a Banco Santander subsidiary. Liverpool Victoria paid £17,250,000 for the 30,000 sq ft office building, which was redeveloped in 1985.

The building was let in 1985 to Fidelity Bank at £39 a sq ft, before City rents really took off, and was reviewed in 1990 after rents started to fall.

Harrods history

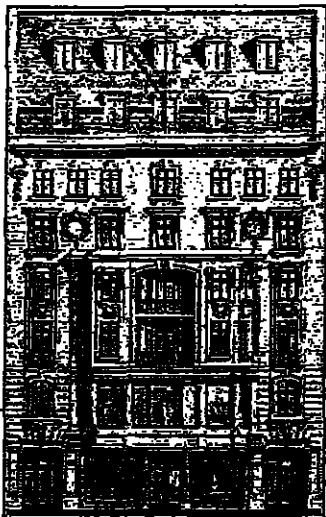
THE fitting-out of 65,000 sq ft of offices at Sixty Sloane Avenue, London SW3, will begin soon for Leo Burnett, the advertising agency. Glenlake has completed redevelopment of the 1911 building, designed as warehouse-workshops for Harrods. The full scheme, in Chelsea's Brompton Cross area, consists of 77,000 sq ft of offices and 36,000 sq ft of restaurant and retail space. The



agents, Egerton and Jones Lang Wootton, are asking £46,000 to £100,000 a year for the shops, and £30 a sq ft for the remaining office space.

Good timing?

NO 50 Pall Mall, 35,000 sq ft of air-conditioned space designed as a headquarters building, is one of the few new schemes



No 50 Pall Mall, an architect's drawing

under way in the St James's area of the West End.

With a basement, ground and five floors, the building, funded by Arcon/AMP, will be ready for letting next September. The agents, Conway Relf and D.T.Z. Debenham Thorpe, expect the rent to be £45 plus and believe it will hit the market at a time when there is no other competition.

Wesley link

THE first Methodist chapel John Wesley occupied and preached in for nearly 50 years, at 24 West Street in Covent Garden, is to be converted to offices after a variety of uses, latterly as a ballet school. The building, dating from 1700 when it was a chapel for Protestant Huguenot refugees, has been let by E.A. Shaw & Partners to Visualeyes at £100,000 a year, with a reduced rent in the first year.

Right note

THE spectacular former Royal College of Organists' building opposite the Albert Hall at Kensington Gore has been sold to the Roth Property Group for £1,567,500 on a 125-year lease by Daniel Smith, acting for the Royal Commission for The Exhibition of 1851. The Grade II-listed building, its facade decorated with murals, contains 10,000 sq ft. The new owners seek planning permission to convert it to a single house.

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WOOLLEY & WALLIS

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OVERSEAS PROPERTY

EXHIBITION

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NEWS

Royal divorce rumour is denied

The Prince and Princess of Wales united through their solicitors to deny that they have agreed to divorce or have discussed a financial settlement. Allegations made in a French magazine that the couple would divorce next year with a £15 million settlement for the Princess, were "wholly untrue".

However, the future of the royal marriage and its constitutional implications continued to divide MPs and church leaders. Page 1

The Queen praises democratic Russia

Democratic reform in Russia would succeed and endure despite the present problems of transition, the Queen told President Yeltsin at a state banquet in the Kremlin. The Queen said she and the President had spent most of their lives believing such a dinner could never take place. Page 1

Blair on attack

Tony Blair attempted to expose Conservative divisions over Europe in his first face-to-face Commons confrontation with John Major. Pages 1, 2, 9

Pension threat

Hundreds of thousands of civil servants could face a major upheaval in the way in which their pensions are administered and possibly even how much they are paid in retirement. Page 1

Army life review

The Government has ordered a review into the expensive living enjoyed by senior military officers, Nicholas Soames, the armed forces minister said. Page 2

Cheating student

The Oxford University student stripped of his theology degree last week is a church minister who strangled his wife in front of his young daughter. Page 3

Damages 'too low'

Damages awarded to accident victims are often too low and fail to compensate adequately for their long-term financial and physical suffering, said a Law Commission survey. Page 4

Unkindest cut

The owner of Garsington Manor, once a haunt of the Bloomsbury group, was fined for chopping down two 70-foot lime trees which helped to fire the imagination of the literary set. Page 6

Noise complaint may sound a knell

The bells of a country church may fall victim to legislation designed to curb excessive noise. The eight bells of St John the Baptist Church at Tunstall, Kent, have summoned the faithful since medieval times but after a solitary complaint from an anonymous resident, the full weight of local authority bureaucracy has been brought to bear. Page 1

Rover recruits

Rover is to recruit more than 1,400 new workers as part of a £1.5 billion expansion. Experts have this year helped to push output to record levels. Page 5

Salmonella scare

A dangerous new strain of salmonella that is resistant to five antibiotics is spreading quickly, say government scientists. The bug, which can be fatal, infected 1,200 people last year. Page 8

Mid-East briefing

Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, briefed John Major on the peace agreement between Israel and Jordan. Page 10

South Korea défilé

Korean halted an agreement between America and North Korea as a move towards ending the nuclear crisis and said it could provide a breakthrough for détente. Page 11

Kennedy plea

"I need your help," Edward Kennedy pleaded to a group of 700 Massachusetts students, none of whom was born when he first took his Senate seat. Page 12

Kohl's struggle

Helmut Kohl opened talks with the Free Democrats on a new coalition, with Hildegard Hamm-Brücher, the veteran Free Democrat, vowing not to enter a coalition with Christian Democrats "at any price". Page 13



Natasha Hezelgrave and the choir of South Hampstead High School who will sing to President Clinton on Saturday. Diary, page 16

BUSINESS

PSBR: The British government deficit remains on a declining trend, but there is very little scope for tax cuts in next month's Budget, the latest figures suggest. Page 25

Phone wars: Mercury One-2-One, the year-old mobile phone joint venture between Cable and Wireless and US West, is to invest £230 million to extend its network to reach 60 per cent of the population by 1997. Page 26

Banking: The ability of small businesses to perform is being hampered by poor relationships with bankers. Page 25

Markets: Fresh worries about the dollar left the FT-SE 100 index 34.9 points lower at 3,085.3. The pound rose 0.3 cents to \$1.6135 and 0.9 pence to DM2.4250. Page 28

Football: Manchester United seem prepared to play with risk every bit as much as Barcelona in their European Champions League match tonight. Page 44

Rugby league: Great Britain have chosen the St Helens pair, Alan Hunte and Chris Joynt, out of their normal positions to face Australia in the first international. Page 46

Rugby union: Seven players will now appear before a disciplinary hearing after the ill-tempered provincial final between North Harbour and Auckland. Page 46

Tennis: The defeat of Clare Wood in the first round of the Brighton indoor championships reflects deepening concern over the dismal state of the British women's game. Page 44

Neil Pearson: Julia Llewellyn Smith meets the sexton man on television. Page 15

Respecting the law: Why Libby Purves is not marching for the liberation of Adrian and Bernadette Mooney. Page 15

Parle: Iain R. Webb on feathers, frills and frivolity. Page 14

New generation: Arts previews are one thing; criticism is another (and better), says Richard Morrison, Times arts editor. Page 33

Extra dish: The BBC's two European channels are not available on ordinary satellite dishes. Brenda Maddox on what to do. Page 33

Much ado about nothing? BBC2's much-trumpeted *Bard on the Box* Shakespeare season "variously looks like being informative, silly, sophisticated, shallow, provocative and really rather pointless", writes Benedict Nightingale. And where are the plays? Page 37

Lille on track: The French industrial city of Lille has, says Marcus Binney, "trumped every aspiring town in England" with a spectacular £520 million development over its new station. Page 38

Baroque splendour: London can enjoy one of Europe's most intensive Baroque music workshops, when William Christie brings Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *David at Jonathan* to Christ Church, Spitalfields. Page 39

Dublin on show: Kate Bassett reviews the new plays at the Dublin Theatre Festival, including a hidden gem or two. Page 37

The fact that both Protestants and Catholics have agreed to a ceasefire in Northern Ireland offers hope that the peacekeepers may prevail, even without a clear vision of the area's future. — *Wall St Journal*

President Clinton has hailed the Israel-Jordan agreement as evidence that "moderation and reason are prevailing." No third country has worked harder than the United States on behalf of this result. — *Los Angeles Times*

Barbara Grigor, Scottish film maker and exhibition organiser, Dr Davidson Nicol, diplomat and novelist; Fred Lebow, creator of the New York City marathon; Harry Kemp, poet and teacher; Mackenzie Davey, psychologist. Page 19

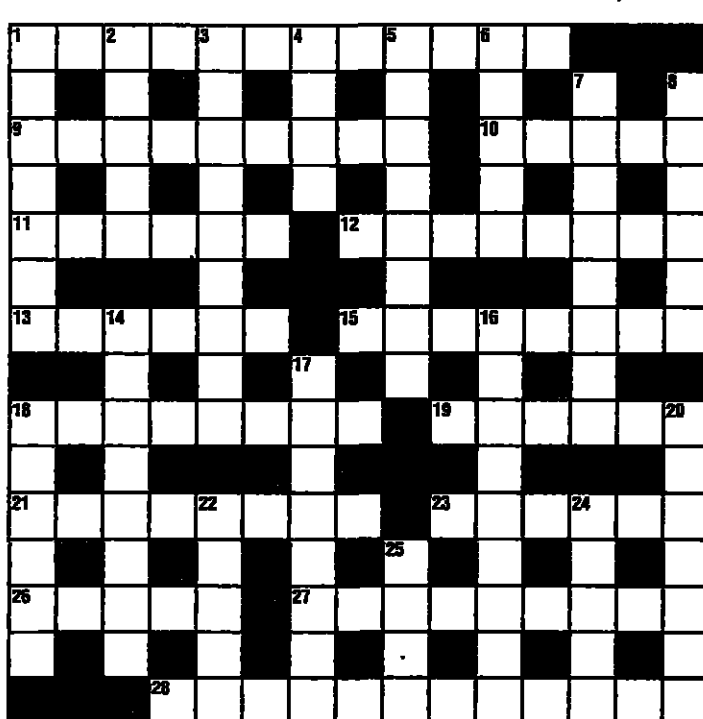
A plea to reduce the use of prison sentences; Conservatives and Northern Ireland; compulsory sport in schools. Page 17

IN THE TIMES

TRAVOLTA II
Geoff Brown, film critic, on *Pulp Fiction* and the 1990s John Travolta (left)

DANCE DEBUT
Debra Craine, *The Times*' new dance critic, on the Lucinda Childs company in London

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,677



- ACROSS**
- Having nothing on the anniversary match (8,4).
 - Not sounded by the top brass? (5,4).
 - First lady about to approve call up (5).
 - Off — ready for bed? (6).
 - Disease one's escaped, using anti-inflammatory preparation (8).
 - One to be taken weekly (6).
 - Scottish member of the Drones Club? (8).
 - Key perhaps hidden in the cupboard (8).
 - Feed by continually nibbling the hill-tops, say (6).
 - Soldiers row with future churchman (8).
 - Compensation for cancelled tennis games (6).
 - Parking in front of the green to smarten up (5).
- DOWN**
- Mind having to act in loco parentis? (4,3).
 - Kind of fern found in the course of summer (6,6).
 - Open just for a beer (4).
 - Miller's tale concerned his death (8).
 - Heron ensnared by young Bosinney (5).
 - Fighter who may have a sinister hook (8).
 - A religious swinger (6).
 - Money box for the home baker? (5,3).
 - List of shares for top oil combine (9).
 - US poet pushing up, say, a fee (8).
 - Nosy agent grabs new spectacles (6).
 - Getting the maximum out of a defective meter (7).
 - Like the emperor, perhaps, in his 1st c. (5).
 - Informed about Latin giving way to the vernacular (3).
 - Generations of odd characters among anglers (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,676

ACROSS
1. HAVING NOTHING ON THE ANNIVERSARY MATCH (8,4)
2. NOT SOUNDED BY THE TOP BRASS? (5,4)
3. FIRST LADY ABOUT TO APPROVE CALL UP (5)
4. OFF — READY FOR BED? (6)
5. DISEASE ONE'S ESCAPED, USING ANTI-INFLAMMATORY PREPARATION (8)
6. ONE TO BE TAKEN WEEKLY (6)
7. SCOTTISH MEMBER OF THE DRONES CLUB? (8)
8. KEY PERHAPS HIDDEN IN THE CUPBOARD (8)
9. FEED BY CONTINUALLY NIBBLING THE HILL-TOPS, SAY (6)
10. SOLDIERS ROW WITH FUTURE CHURCHMAN (8)
11. COMPENSATION FOR CANCELLED TENNIS GAMES (6)
12. PARKING IN FRONT OF THE GREEN TO SMARTEN UP (5)

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TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 5500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
North/South/South East	702
Don't, Herts & CW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wales, Gloucestershire/Somerset	705
Devon/Somerset	706
Devon/Somerset	707
North/South/South East	708
West Midlands & East of England	709
Shropshire/Hereford & Worcester	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Yorkshire & Humberside	714
Yorkshire & Humberside	715
North/South/South East	716
North/South/South East	717
North/South/South East	718
North/South/South East	719
North/South/South East	720
North/South/South East	721
North/South/South East	722
North/South/South East	723
North/South/South East	724
North/South/South East	725
North/South/South East	726
North/South/South East	727

Weather forecast is changed at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadwork information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Area	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
London & SE traffic, roadworks	732
London & SE traffic, roadworks	733
London & SE traffic, roadworks	734
London & SE traffic, roadworks	735
London & SE traffic, roadworks	736
London & SE traffic, roadworks	737
London & SE traffic, roadworks	738
London & SE traffic, roadworks	739
London & SE traffic, roadworks	740
London & SE traffic, roadworks	741
London & SE traffic, roadworks	742
London & SE traffic, roadworks	743
London & SE traffic, roadworks	744
London & SE traffic, roadworks	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Isles of Scilly, 14C (57F); lowest day temp: Llandudno, 5C (41F); highest night temp: Llandudno, 5C (41F); lowest night temp: Llandudno, 5C (41F).

Monday: Highest day temp: Isles of Scilly, 14C (57F); lowest day temp: Llandudno, 5C (41F); highest night temp: Llandudno, 5C (41F); lowest night temp: Llandudno, 5C (41F).

General

General: Eastern areas of England and Wales will start bright. Cloud and rain in western areas will spread steadily east to all parts. Western areas will be brighter with showers later. There will be strong, gusty winds. There will be a bright start in northern Scotland, Orkney and Shetland. Other parts of the country will be cloudy and wet. Becoming brighter with showers later in west. Windy. In Northern Ireland cloud and rain will be followed by sun and showers.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E Anglia, clear or bright at first. Cloud and rain spreading from west by afternoon. Gusty fresh or strong southwesterly winds. Max 15C (59F).

Central S England, E Midlands, Central N, Cloud and rain soon spreading from west. Wet for a time then becoming clearer. Gusty fresh southwesterly winds. Max 15C (59F).

W Midlands, Channel Isles, S W

England, S Wales, N Wales, N W

England, S Wales, N Wales, N W: England, Lake District, Lake of Man, Overcast and wet, rain heavy at times. Brighter or clearer weather with showers later. Fresh southwesterly winds, veering southwest. Max 15C (59F).

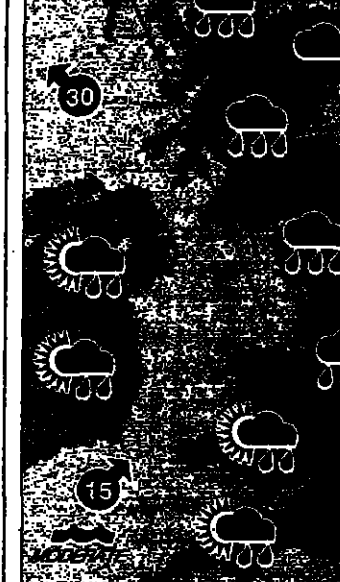
N E England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, N E Scotland, Clear or bright at first. Cloud and rain spreading from west. Gusty fresh or strong SE winds. Max 13C (55F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland, Overcast and wet, rain heavy at times. Brighter or clearer weather with showers later. Fresh SE winds, veering SW. Max 13C (55F).

Orkney, Shetland: cloudy with light showers, some brighter intervals. Very windy with south easterly gales in places. Max 11C (52F).

Outlook: Most places becoming bright or sunny with showers.

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Steps towards
a new role
for arts critics

Design takes an
electrifying
new track in Lille

Ellery Hanley: from
great player to
Great Britain coach

JAPAN'S
RIVER OF
DEBTS
Page 29

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19 1994

Deficit falls but leaves little scope for Budget tax cuts

BUSINESS
TODAY

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE government deficit remains on a declining trend but September's figures, published yesterday, suggest that there is little scope for tax cuts in next month's Budget.

The public sector borrowing requirement totalled £4.1 billion in September, taking the cumulative deficit so far this year to £19.5 billion. In the same month last year, the PSBR was £5.8 billion and the cumulative deficit £23.9 billion.

Halfway through the current fiscal year, the deficit is already

more than halfway towards the Government's summer forecast of a PSBR for the whole year of £36 billion.

However, the key months for September and October are still to come and economists noted that lagged effects on revenues resulting from the first part of this year could be expected to feed through. In addition, revenues will be boosted by this month's new tax on insurance premiums and by Customs and Excise increases already announced for the Budget.

Many economists still expect the PSBR to undershoot the Government's projection by perhaps £2 billion, but probably not by much more. This would make it difficult for the Government to announce large cuts in its public spending control totals.

David Coleman, an economist with CIBC Wood Gundy, said that "any suggestion of tax cuts in next month's Budget is hopelessly premature".

James Capel, the stockbroker, said that, for market expectations of an undershoot of £2 billion to £3 billion to be met, "revenue will have

to accelerate markedly in the second half of the year, while spending remains subdued." However, although the Chancellor's scope appears to be limited this year, economists believe he will have more room to manoeuvre in his 1995 Budget.

A combination of lower than expected inflation, faster than expected falls in unemployment and, possibly, better growth than was pencilled in last November, could mean that the Chancellor has room to cut control totals by £3 billion to £4 billion next year.

Much will depend on whether

growth slows down from this year's rate under the weight of higher interest rates and another round of tax increases.

The revenue picture so far this year has been quite encouraging. In September, income tax receipts were up 22.1 per cent, year on year, and corporation tax receipts up 94.5 per cent. The Treasury has noted that there appears to have been significant early payment of corporation tax that would normally be received in October.

Michael Saunders, of Salomon Brothers, observed that central government revenues as a whole

were up by just 7.9 per cent, year on year, compared with the figure of 11.1 per cent in the Treasury's summer forecast.

Departmental spending is catching up with the Treasury's targets after a good start to the year. In September, spending was 6.7 per cent up on a year ago. For the first four months, it fell by 1.7 per cent, compared with the same period a year earlier.

Don Smith, an economist with Midland Global Markets, said that spending was moving more closely into line with that in previous years, though it remained on the low side.

STOCK MARKET
INDICES

FT-SE 100	3085.3	(-34.9)
FT-SE All share	1534.40	(-14.05)
Nikkei	19892.40	(-34.11)
Dow Jones	3908.12	(-15.81)
S&P Composite	465.01	(-2.15)

US RATE

Federal Funds	4 1/4%	(4 1/4%)
Long Bond	7 3/4%	(7 3/4%)
Yield	7.85%	(7.85%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	102	(102 1/2%)

STERLING

New York	1.6135	(1.6105)
London	1.6119	(1.6105)
DM	2.4225	(2.4156)
FF	1.3370	(1.3350)
SF	2.0141	(2.0107)
Yen	157.56	(157.27)
S Index	80.0	(79.8)

DOLLAR

London	1.5921	(1.4980)
DM	5.1530	(5.1430)
SF	1.2488	(1.2470)
Yen	87.78	(87.65)
S Index	81.1	(81.2)

Tokyo close Yen 98.05

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$16.15	(\$15.95)
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GOLD

London close	\$389.75	(\$389.25)
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* denotes midday trading price

Civil Service pensions may be privatised

By ROBERT MILLER

THE Government plans to use outside contractors to administer the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS), as a prelude to introducing personal pensions for hundreds of thousands of civil servants, it was revealed yesterday.

Elizabeth Symons, general secretary of the First Division Association, which represents senior civil servants, produced a letter written by Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, to Jonathan Aitken, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, in which Mr Heseltine said: "I intend to explore contracting out as soon as we are in a position to do so."

The letter, which is dated September 9 and was also circulated to "Cabinet colleagues" close by noting that trade department officials are "to look at the issue of personal/portable personal pension schemes given the changes in Civil Service careers, post the White Paper".

Ms Symons and other Civil Service union leaders say the PCSPS administration is cost-effective and efficient. She also pointed out that last year alone the Government paid £565 million to consultants in the private sector.

Peter Lamb, president of the National Union of Civil and Public Servants, said last night: "We are very concerned that this is a prelude to the

privatisation of the complete Civil Service pension scheme. There is increasing use of short-term contracts in the Civil Service."

Mr Heseltine acknowledged in his letter that the PCSPS has "unique features". But he added: "I expect that there may be strong interest from some private sector companies in undertaking this work... I am aware of the 1992 Efficiency Unit Report, but I find it difficult to believe that this Department's Pension Unit which deals with around 22,000 clients each year (including pensioners) with 18 staff represents the optimal efficient scale of operation... It is worth considering the potential for a consortium of departments to explore the market for contracting out pensions administration of the PCSPS."

He continued: "That could provide a wider client base and increase the potential gains from contracting out. I hope the Treasury itself will decide to participate in the consortium and perhaps take the lead. If not, my department would be willing to take on this role and explore the possibility with other interested departments."

But other government departments said that although they might consider joining a consortium, they might also wish to submit competitive

bids to run the PCSPS in their own right. In a draft response to Mr Heseltine's letter the Home Office pointed out: "We have been successful ourselves in bidding for work from Oflet (The Office of the National Lottery) and we would consider ourselves well-placed to submit competitive bids to provide administration of the PCSPS to other government departments."

The DTI last night declined to comment on Mr Heseltine's letter as "it was a private matter between ministers".

The revelations are certain to embarrass the Government, which is bracing itself for a row over personal pensions when the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City regulator, publishes a report on the mis-selling of these plans next week. An estimated 20 per cent of the 500,000 people who switched from occupational schemes into personal pensions may have been wrongly advised. The pensions industry faces a potential compensation bill that could top £500 million plus hundreds of thousands of pounds in administrative costs.

Civil servants and other public employees who were tempted to transfer from their pension schemes to a personal pension are likely to get the highest compensation.

Pennington, page 27



Up for grabs: a John Major lookalike sells off public services at a spoof auction staged by unions yesterday

Banker tipped to lead Lloyds quits

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SIR David Walker, the man once tipped to become Governor of the Bank of England or chairman of Lloyds Bank, is leaving his non-executive role at Lloyds next month to take on the newly created post of executive chairman of Morgan Stanley's European operations.

Sir David, the former chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, said yesterday that he had decided that, at 54, he was too young to be in a non-executive role, adding: "I started to miss being an executive." He said his decision had nothing to do with the fact that it is likely to be two and a half years until Sir Robin Ibbotson, chairman of Lloyds, retires.

Sir Robin had initially been seen as a caretaker chairman, keeping the chair warm between the departure of Sir Jeremy Morse, in January 1993, and the appointment of Sir David, who had joined the board only six months earlier. But Sir Robin has, how-

ever, enjoyed his role. He is now thought likely to hand over to Sir Brian Pitman, currently chief executive.

Sir David will take up his new job on November 18. He will also be a managing director of Morgan Stanley and a member of the Morgan Stanley Group board of directors. He will be based in London where he will be responsible for the firm's nine European offices.

He said: "The offer of a job of this kind, with a very large executive responsibility, in a group that is growing as fast as Morgan Stanley has done, is too good to miss."

Morgan Stanley's two European chief executives, Steven Ward and Stephen Waters will report to him. Sir David said Morgan Stanley's European business is "growing very fast" and the firm wanted to bring in someone at the top to help sort out its priorities.

Pennington, page 27

TSB tells 90 staff their redundancy is cancelled

TSB has cancelled redundancy for about 90 staff whose jobs disappeared when it merged its 900-strong life sales arm with its banking network this summer (Patricia Tehan writes).

Most of the people involved are from managerial jobs in the branch banking business. Some were handed redundancy cheques, but were then ordered not to cash them.

TSB is expected to tell many of these staff that they are now to take part in a new investigation into alleged mis-selling in its pension transfer business. This is a special project, likely to take two years to complete.

When TSB reported its half-year profits in June it

confirmed that it had made a significant provision against possible pension transfers, though it refused to reveal the size of the provision and said it had found no evidence of mis-selling.

TSB is paying some of the managers to stay at home on "garden leave" until it can allocate them jobs. Others have already been allocated work on "special projects".

A spokesman refused to comment on the number of staff unallocated and refused to comment on whether redundancy had been offered and later withdrawn.

He said TSB staff can ask for an illustration of the pack-

age they would receive if they took voluntary redundancy, "but that does not mean that they are being offered redundancy".

Of the staff unallocated after the restructuring, the spokesman said: "Some of them who were offered illustrations, who had discussions regarding their future, may be doing other tasks within the organisation that include investigating our position in pension transfers."

TSB wrote to 55,000 investors in transfer plans asking them to contact the bank if they were worried. The spokesman said it had received 2,200 responses and had compensated 14 people.

Pennington, page 27

Small firms most critical of Barclays

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THE performance of small businesses is being held back by poor relationships with their banks, according to a report from the Forum of Private Business. Barclays and National Westminster were the worst culprits, with over half Barclays' customers and 44.6 per cent of NatWest's considering changing banks.

Barclays said: "Our own surveys show a very low level of dissatisfaction in small and medium businesses," and added that the survey's findings "do not tally with our own research or the number of our customers who actually switch."

In England, Lloyds had the lowest number of potential defectors at 36.1 per

cent, while 42.6 per cent of Royal Bank of Scotland small and medium business customers were thinking of changing. Lloyds and Midland both saw falls of potential defectors between 1992 and 1994.

In the study of 6,000 businesses, *Small Businesses and Their Banks 1994*, the reason most often given for dissatisfaction was high transaction charges. RBS was seen as giving best value for money on transaction charges, with Barclays worst.

Stan Mendham, the Forum's chief executive, said despite recent actions by the banks to appease small businesses, "the problems are still getting worse". He said small businesses were subsidising other bank customers often because they were required to pay higher rates of

interest and provide higher levels of personal collateral.

Mr Mendham said the reason only 8 per cent of small firms actually changed banks, compared with 43.1 per cent that considered changing, was because they perceived no difference between banks.

The British Bankers' Association said it was concerned about two misconceptions, "first, that all small businesses are in debt to their banks and second, that banks are restricting general economic recovery by holding back lending, which is wanted to help small businesses grow." It added that the trend for small business fees was down, not up.

Pennington, page 27

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Mendham: raw deal

Lloyd's names launch bid to claw back £525m

THERE were underwriters who understood the London reinsurance market and there were "mugs" who did not. A High Court judge was told yesterday. Because of the negligence and incompetence of the "mugs", hundreds of Lloyd's names in the Feltrim syndicates had lost millions, Jeremy Cooke, QC, argued.

He was launching a court bid by 1,624 investors to claw back £525 million from Feltrim Underwriting Agencies, which managed the syndicates, and the 53 underwriting agencies that placed them on those syndicates in the financially disastrous years 1987-89.

The names claim they are entitled

to all their losses because the underwriting agencies failed in their legal duty to exercise "due care and skill" and to act competently in the market.

Later in the hearing, which is due to run until Christmas, the underwriting agencies are expected to argue that names' losses were caused by agencies' failure or negligence but by an unprecedented and unforeseeable series of catastrophes suffered by the insurance and reinsurance markets worldwide.

The latest action comes two weeks after a court victory for more than 3,000 names in four Gooda Walker syndicates. They sought to recover losses of £629 million and expect to be

awarded 80 per cent of their losses as a result of the judgment in their favour by Mr Justice Phillips — who is also hearing the Feltrim case.

Both cases stem from catastrophes in the late 1980s, including the 1987 storm, the Piper Alpha disaster and the Phillips oil refinery explosion.

Mr Cooke told the judge yesterday that Feltrim syndicates 540, 542 and 847 were engaged in catastrophe reinsurance on the London excess of loss market (LMO) and had incurred liability for large aggregate sums in the event of catastrophes occurring.

But there were huge gaps between the risks to which the names were being exposed and the insurance

protection provided for them by their syndicates. "The gap was one no competent reinsurer could possibly decide to run," Mr Cooke said.

Investors became victims of the LMO "spiral", in which risks were concentrated among fewer and fewer names in a chain of reinsurance deals, until excess of loss cover became exhausted.

There were some at Lloyd's — "who may be referred to as mugs" — who did not understand how the market worked and wrote high aggregate exposures, without obtaining adequate reinsurance. "There was a failure fully to understand the effect of the spiral and the way the

LMO worked so far as Feltrim was concerned," Mr Cooke said. There had been a failure adequately to assess the accumulated exposure to any single catastrophe, or to calculate properly the probable maximum losses names would suffer if catastrophes occurred.

The hearing was adjourned for a week for the judge to read documents and reports.

The case is the second-largest to be brought in an English court — Gooda Walker set the record — and Feltrim Names are also bringing a second action, due to start next February, to claim for losses in the 1990 underwriting year.

Mercury One-2-One in £230m expansion

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

MERCURY One-2-One, the year-old mobile phone joint venture between Cable and Wireless (C&W) and US West, is to invest £230 million to extend its network to reach 60 per cent of the population by 1997.

The additional investment, announced yesterday, brings to £660 million the total amount now committed to the venture by the British and American telecommunications groups. C&W's Mercury Personal Communications subsidiary is the licensed operating partner.

Since it was launched last autumn in London and the South East, Mercury One-2-One has attracted 140,000 customers, the largest customer base of any of the digital cellular networks.

Lord Young of Graffham, C&W's chairman, is a long-standing advocate of much wider use of the mobile telephone. He devoted much of his time as Trade and Industry Secretary in the Thatcher government to promoting telecommunications.

About two thirds of Mercury One-2-One customers are new to mobile telephony, which suggests that the network has attracted new types of subscribers to a product typically associated with high-powered business people.

More than 5 million calls are made each week over the network.

With its network construction complete in London, the South East, and the West Midlands, where it opened for customers yesterday, the next step will be to extend it to the south and south east coasts, followed by further expansion in the Midlands. Full regional coverage will also be made available in the North West, where there has been limited city centre coverage in Liverpool and Manchester since the summer.

Richard Goswell, Mercury One-2-One's managing director, said that the company had taken a 30 per cent share of new mobile sales in its coverage area in the first year, a "fantastic performance for a new company launching into a fiercely competitive market". However, its share of the total market is only 5 per cent.

He said Mercury One-2-One was outgrowing its rivals, but would not predict how much more market share he expected to secure by extending the network with the extra £230 million of capital investment.

The company has a long way to go before it catches up with Vodafone and Cellnet, a BT-Securicor joint venture. Their arrival on the market in the Eighties has given them a big lead in mobile telephony, with respectively 1.4 million and 1.3 million subscribers.

Mr Goswell said his company was not just competing for the custom of experienced mobile phone users, but had also attracted a new type of customer who saw the digital Mercury One-2-One as a phone for their everyday work and social lives, and used it in a totally different way to its cellular forebears.

He noted that phone users also make great use of its Voicemail service, with 60 per cent of customers regularly employing it.

Mr Goswell said he considered forecasts that Britain will have 10 million mobile phone users by the end of the century to be conservative. He believed the figure could be 2 million higher than that.



Lord Young, chairman of Cable and Wireless, a long-standing advocate of mobile phones

News Corp 'to get \$1bn' from float

THE flotation by January of BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, would inject a total of \$1 billion into The News Corporation's balance sheet, Rupert Murdoch, News Corp's chairman, told shareholders in Adelaide.

"We are hoping that the float can take place before the end of the calendar year," Mr Murdoch told the annual meeting, adding that the float should be in the next few weeks or, at the latest, by January.

If analysts' forecasts are correct, Mr Murdoch said, News Corp, ultimate owner of The Times, will see its balance sheet strengthened by the cash from the float in the first half of its financial year.

The company had no negotiations taking place and no plans for major acquisitions at present, he added.

News Corp owns 50 per cent of BSkyB. The planned float would involve 20 per cent of the satellite broadcaster and would dilute the group's shareholding to about 40 per cent.

Mr Murdoch also told the annual meeting he expected the group to achieve profit growth of 50 per cent on a 25 per cent rise in revenue over the next two to three years.

He told reporters after the meeting that the Hong Kong-based STAR TV, which is 63.6 per cent owned by News Corp, would probably report a loss of a little less than \$20 million in the financial year to June 1995, following a loss of the same amount in 1993-94.

Post chiefs respond to consumer fears

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

POST executives yesterday said the Government's plans to sell parts of the Post Office contained sufficient protection for consumers to allow privatisation to go ahead.

The Post Office's statement came in response to the National Consumer Council (NCC), the watchdog representing consumers, which says it cannot support any plans for the institution's privatisation until the Government includes in its proposals protection for all consumers.

Post managers support the Government's proposal to sell 51 per cent of Royal Mail and Parcelforce, while leaving Post Office Counters under public ownership, because they say it is the only way of

giving the postal business the commercial freedom they say is vital.

In evidence to the Government's Green Paper on the Post Office's future, the NCC says that "commercial freedom must not mean a charter to jettison unprofitable, though essential, consumer services in favour of profitable business customers".

The council says that the introduction of competition into postal services must not follow the example of either the privatisation of telecommunications, where business customers fared far better than domestic users, or electricity, where too generous regulatory price controls led to excess profits.

Complaints against British Gas rise

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH Gas is facing a rising number of complaints from customers after its extensive internal reorganisation, gas consumers say today.

The Gas Consumers' Council (GCC) will today spell out its findings on consumer complaints in evidence to the Trade and Industry Select Committee's inquiry into greater competition in the gas market, which next week will question Tim Eggar, energy minister, and Clare Spottiswoode, Ofgas regulator.

But before today's hearing, the council says complaints have risen 6 per cent after falling 14 per cent last year.

In the first nine months of this year, the council's 12 offices dealt with 12,628 complaints, which customers had tried unsuccessfully to resolve with British Gas, while in the same period customer inquiries to the council exceeded 73,000, compared with 70,345 for the whole of last year.

Inquiries to the GCC are dominated by requests from gas customers on how to complain, followed by requests for information on payment facilities and bill-paying procedures. There is "mounting interest" in independent gas suppliers. Key areas of cus-

tomers concern include service and repair work, disputes over bills and the Three-Star Service scheme, where complaints have risen by a third.

Phil Harner, GCC field director, says: "British Gas sets high levels of customer service but the impact of re-organising the company into separate business units is starting to show. To maintain customer confidence before competitors enter the market, the new business units must react quickly to reverse this trend."

British Gas said its restructuring might be leading to a "small temporary fall-back in some service standards."



Spottiswoode: evidence

Swan Hunter bidder signs pact with BAE

CONSTRUCTIONS Mechanique de Normandie (CMN), the French company that negotiated unsuccessfully for more than one year to buy the Swan Hunter shipyard from the receivers, has signed a marketing agreement with the dynamics division of British Aerospace to increase the use of BAE weapons on small naval vessels and promote sales of CMN's range of fast attack craft and patrol boats.

CMN has supplied more than 300 vessels to navies around the world, including 75 missile boats. Its shipyard in Cherbourg is currently building patrol boats for the French and Royal Oman navies and a research ship for Indonesia. The company is negotiating to build eight fast attack boats for the Kuwaiti navy and has been selected by Kuwait to refit an existing fast attack aircraft.

US unzips banana deal

AMERICA has launched a section 301 inquiry into Europe's banana imports, raising the prospect of a trade dispute. Mickey Kantor, the US trade representative, said an import deal between the EU and Costa Rica, Colombia, Nicaragua and Venezuela, signed earlier this year, discriminated against US marketing companies operating in Europe. The basic disagreement is over whether bananas were covered in the Uruguay Round of the Gatt. The US says they were added to the list only after it had signed the agreement in Marrakesh.

Directors convicted

CONVICTIONS were obtained against 26 directors in the second quarter, says the Department of Trade and Industry's investigations division. These led to four custodial sentences and three suspended custodial sentences ranging from three months to two years for offences including forgery and counterfeiting, fraudulent trading and insolvency. Five defendants were fined, and the remaining 14 either received community service orders, or were conditionally discharged.

Paterson gives warning

SHARES in Paterson Zochonis, the soap and detergents maker, slumped 51p to 438p after the company gave warning that profits in the six months to November 30 would be "somewhat lower" than the £13.6 million earned in the first half last year. The shortfall is caused by the Nigerian factories. In the year to May 31, Paterson made pre-tax profits of £28.1 million (£25.3 million). Earnings per share were 36.6p (32.0p). A final dividend of 11.4p makes 13.85p (12.6p).

Votes move at Barr

BARR & Wallace Arnold Trust, the coach holidays and property company facing a revolt by dissident shareholders, yesterday announced plans to enfranchise the non-voting shares. The board also proposes a one-for-one scrip issue to ordinary shareholders to compensate them for the loss of voting control and has promised to at least maintain the final dividend on the enlarged share capital. Full details of the enfranchisement will be set out no later than October 28, the company said.

Filtronic price set

SHARES in Filtronic Comtec, the designer and manufacturer of devices for mobile telecommunications equipment, will be priced at 105p, capitalising the company at £44.1 million when dealings begin on Monday. Professor David Rhodes, chairman and founder, will retain an 11.5 per cent interest, worth just over £5 million. Under the placing, which is underwritten by Panmure Gordon, 9.5 million shares are being sold by existing shareholders and 14.3 million new shares are being issued, raising £13.8 million for the company.

AEA division for sale

THE Atomic Energy Authority is offering for sale its facilities division as part of the privatisation of its non-core operations. Initial bids are sought by late next month for the division, covering services ranging from catering to property management at six sites throughout the country. Talks with several companies have been under way for some time. The authority will continue to buy services from the privatised division, which will thus have a guaranteed income of more than £110 million over the next six years.

T&N sells in Germany

T&N, the vehicle components group, is recouping part of its £102 million outlay on Goetze, the German piston ring maker acquired last year. T&N is selling Goetze Elastomere to SKF Goetze Elastomere manufacturers engine seals at Opladen, near Cologne. It has annual sales of more than £45 million and a workforce of about 600. The sale price has not been disclosed, but is believed to be about £20 million. The transaction is subject to approval from the German cartel office.

Town Centre scrip issue

THE steady improvement promised with the interim results has translated into an 8.7 per cent increase in full-year profits at Town Centre Securities, the Leeds property investment and development company. Pre-tax earnings in the year to June 30 were £8.8 million, up from £8.1 million, and earnings per share rose from 5.65p to 6.75p. The final dividend of 2.6p makes 3.8p, up from 3.4p. There is a scrip issue of one share for every four held.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank
Sale	Rate
Australia \$	2.12
Austria Sch	13.76
Belgium F	36.36
Canada C	2.12
Cyprus Cyp£	0.773
Denmark Kr	10.07
Finland Mk	8.04
France F	6.56
Germany Dm	2.57
Greece Dr	338.00
Hong Kong \$	13.05
Ireland P	1.08
Italy Lit	206.00
Japan Yen	173.00
Malta M	258.00
Netherlands Gld	2.28
Norway Kr	11.11
Portugal Esc	200.00
S Africa Rd	REF.
Spain Ptas	164.00
Sweden Kr	12.20
Switzerland Fr	2.16
Turkey Lira	REF.
USA \$	1.574

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

071-782 7101

LEGAL NOTICES

MIM HOLDINGS LIMITED

410 ANN STREET, BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND 4000

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of MIM Holdings Limited will be held at the Sheraton Brisbane Hotel, 249 Turbot Street, Brisbane, Queensland on Friday November 11, 1994 at 10.00am.

Ordinary Business:
1. Receipt and consideration of reports and financial statements for the financial year ended June 30, 1994.
2. Election of Directors retiring for re-election.

Special Business:
3. Increase in Authorized Capital.
4. Approval of participation by Executive Director in Employee Share Scheme.
5. Alteration to the Articles of Association.

By Order of the Board
D M Munro, Secretary, General Counsel
Brisbane, October 19, 1994

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF BRITISH SKY BROADCASTING GROUP LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 12th October 1994, confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named company from £1,176,684,703 to £540,123,004 and the Minute approved by the Court showing the particulars required by the above-named company to be approved by the Court showing the several particulars required by the above-named company to be approved by the Court, is hereby confirmed.

DATED this 19th day of October 1994.

Herbert Smith,
Solicitors for the above-named company.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF BRITISH SKY BROADCASTING GROUP LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

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DATED this 19th day of October 1994.

Herbert Smith,
Solicitors for the above-named company.

NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF PLATON MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (UK) LIMITED

Following a reorganisation, the assets and liabilities of the above named company were transferred on 1 January 1993 to New Platons Management Systems (UK) Limited. The above named company has become dormant. As an integral part of the reorganisation, the above named company was not included in the distribution on 1 October 1994. As such, all creditors with claims against the company, or will be paid in full.

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claims against the company to the Liquidator, at the above named address, by 18 November 1994. The Liquidator also gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.1(2)(a) of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claims against the company to the Liquidator, at the above named address, by 18 November 1994. The Liquidator also gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.1(2)(a) of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claims against the company to the Liquidator, at the above named address, by 18 November 1994. The Liquidator also gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.1(2)(a) of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claims against the company to the Liquidator, at the above named address, by 18 November 1994.

On 4 October 1994 the above named company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Anthony Victor Lomas of Price Waterhouse, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760,

□ Privatised pensions for Civil Servants □ French sell-off moves into top gear □ Lloyds loss is Morgan's gain

Crack in Sir Humphrey's nest egg

RETIRED Civil Servants are lucky fellows, basking in the security of index-linked pensions while their private sector counterparts often see the real value of their pensions dwindle into their old age. Most of us can only look on such security with wistful envy.

If a company was offering its former employees such a safety net, its shareholders would question such generosity. Now Michael Heseltine seems keen to expose Sir Humphrey's cosy nest egg to the harsh financial realities of the outside world, to the potential relief of the taxpayer who foots the bill.

It is ironic that just as Mr Heseltine is looking at the future of the Civil Service's pension arrangements, the Securities and Investments Boards is even now putting the finishing touches to plans to compensate all those Civil Servants as well as police officers, nurses, teachers and miners who were unfairly ripped from the sanctuary of a public sector pension.

This comes in the face of statistics showing that even a short time into the next millennium, fewer and fewer people in work will be supporting more and more people in retirement. That is not just an issue for Britain but all its European partners. One solution, increasingly adopted by governments across the Conti-

nent has been to raise the state retirement age to 65, unpopular maybe, but probably necessary.

The other option is to encourage people to take more responsibility for their own retirement provision by taking out personal pensions. As a sweetener, the Government diverted National Insurance contributions into these personal pension plans. Nothing wrong with that in principle. But the fact is many in the pensions industry saw a golden opportunity to sell these plans regardless of their suitability. They helped swell massively the funds under management and in the process earned hundreds of millions of pounds in commission payments for salesmen.

But the softest targets for the commission-hungry salesforces were very often the wrong ones. Mining communities, nursing homes, teachers and even police officers were persuaded to leave good occupational schemes. Before the Government can even consider pushing its pensioned employees out into the private savings market, it has to clean up the present mess over mis-selling

quickly and effectively. The Government must then ensure that the industry is regulated to a degree that prevents such widespread abuses again.

There should be nothing to fear from a private sector pension. Many millions of workers already depend on them for their future. It is far more concerning that Britain has a Government that is making no provision for its employees' pensions and merely plans to pay them when the time comes out of future revenue. That is financial imprudence that no regulator would allow from any private pension provider.

Renault off the ramp

THE French government is brushing up all its best arm-twisting techniques for the Renault privatisation. Of all the equity that Edmond Alphandery, the French Economics Minister, has managed to load on to bewildered investors, this looks the most difficult to sell.

For a start, the French

PENNINGTON



privatisation programme, unlike its British predecessor, has not distributed riches to all-comers. Shares in Elf Aquitaine, which was the latest major privatisation issue, now stand at seven francs below last February's Fr385 offer price despite the subsequent rise in the oil price, and the performance of other privatisation stocks such as Banque Nationale de Paris, has hardly been impressive. Private investors can quickly cool to the idea of buying their government's unwanted equity when they see nothing in it for them.

But the French finance ministry has shown it can privatise in even the most unwelcoming circumstances. The ground was laid earlier this week when M

Alphandery put a modest valuation on Renault, of up to Fr42.5 billion. Earlier estimates had been as high as Fr50 billion. That implies the shares will be sold on as little as ten times current year earnings forecasts, even though the French car industry is still in the trough of recession. Even the dullest investment is saleable if it is cheap enough.

Just to make sure, however, the French government is roping in a band of old friends to buy up to 5 per cent of the shares. One of these comrades is none other than Elf Aquitaine which in turn was given a leg up in its flotation by BNP which bought a stake. The message is clear: if the French government privatises your company, just remember you still owe them a few favours.

Finally, the authorities are trying to ensure that there is a firm after-market for Renault shares, by starving institutional investors of stock. By earmarking at least 60 per cent of the issue for individuals, the government no doubt hopes there will be a scramble for stock after privatisation. That should ensure there are staggering profits

for private investors, just the thing to sweeten voters' memories when there is a presidential election coming up next year.

Hot seat that turned cold

SO, farewell then, Sir David Walker. When the former chairman of the Securities and Investment Board joined Lloyds in the summer of 1992, he seemed to have secured the ultimate each-way bet. Either he would succeed Sir Jeremy Morse as the bank's chairman, or he would be chosen as the next Governor of the Bank of England, a job for which he was once hotly tipped.

In the event, neither decision went his way. Sir Robin Ibbotson initially looked to be a caretaker chairman at Lloyds, but has grown to like the job and shows no sign of flagging, despite being 68. While bank rules state he has to retire at the annual meeting after his 70th birthday, the dates fall to his advantage, which means he does not have to leave until April 1997.

All of this has left Sir David

rather on the subs bench as one of two non-executive deputy chairmen, hardly a full-time occupation for a grown man. So it is understandable that he has jumped at the chance of running Morgan Stanley's European operations — with nine offices and 2,300 employees — which has won some impressive mandates in recent months. It also explains why he is disappearing so quickly, with only a month to clear out his desk.

His departure gives Lloyds the task of reshuffling its deputy chairmen, and it looks as though the bank will have a vacancy for an outsider early next year when Michael Thompson retires. Applications on a postcard to Lombard Street please, although experience of running a major financial institution will be a distinct advantage.

Don't whine, walk

BANK-BASHING is an ever-popular pastime and the Forum of Private Business has spent years putting the boot in. Now however small businesses can do more than just whinge. With loan growth still static, banks are desperate to win good quality small business accounts. If small businesses are too apathetic to exploit the free market, they can hardly complain about the service they receive.

New drugs stem fall in SmithKline Beecham profits

By NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

SMITHKLINE Beecham, the Anglo-American healthcare group, has escaped the worst side effects of a slump in sales of its best-known drugs thanks to the rapid growth of a series of its new pharmaceuticals.

The group yesterday reported a 2 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £285 million, for July to September. But the slight fall in profits masked a 56 per cent plunge in sales of Tagamet, the anti-ulcer drug, to £83 million after it lost its US patent in May.

The fall was compensated for by an 83 per cent rise to £226 million of sales of SB's newer drugs which are still being introduced around the world. These products include Serostat, an anti-depressant, which increased sales by 106 per cent to £87 million during the quarter. Sales of Havrix, the group's powerful hepatitis A vaccine, grew by 83 per cent to £23 million.

The success of SB's new products increased sales in the pharmaceutical division by 3 per cent to £846 million, although trading profits fell 2 per cent due to the fall in Tagamet's contribution. Prof-

its from the animal healthcare division, the consumer healthcare business and SB's clinical laboratories also rose.

The consumer division increased trading profit by 9 per cent as sales of Tums, the indigestion tablets, grew by 6 per cent, despite increasing pressure from supermarket own-label brands. Lucozade and Ribena increased sales by 16 per cent and 9 per cent respectively.

Overall group sales rose 8 per cent to £1.6 billion during the quarter, while earnings per share increased 4 per cent to 7.8p. The company is offering a third-quarter dividend of 3p, the same as previous quarters this year, to be paid on January 17.

The figures also included a first-time contribution from Diversified Pharmaceutical Services, the pharmacy benefit manager that the group bought in May. This added £66 million to sales but made no contribution to profits since its trading profit of £13 million was wiped out by a goodwill charge which it is expected to carry for the next 40 years.

The cost of the acquisition

pushed SB's interest charge up from £5 million to £17 million in the quarter, and the group blamed the acquisition as one of the reasons for the slight fall in profits. The goodwill write-off however helped to reduce SB's tax charge, which fell from £83 million to £61 million during the quarter.

The figures do not include any contribution from Sterling Winthrop, the business that SB announced last month it was buying from Eastman Kodak. The \$3 billion deal is not expected to be completed until next month.

A spokesman for SB said the group was very satisfied by the figures. "We were all concerned that Tagamet was going to be affected and we are delighted that we have covered it with the growth in sales of our new products," he said.

Jan Leschly, SB's chief executive, said each of the group's businesses were continuing to grow strongly despite the challenges facing the healthcare industry.

Tempos



Jamie Boot, managing director of Henry Boot, where first-half profits rose by more than 10 per cent to £2.6 million

Margins out of step at Henry Boot

By RODNEY HOBSON

MARGINS are still under pressure in building and civil engineering according to Henry Boot & Sons, the Sheffield contractor. David Boot, chairman, said he was taking "a cautious view" of the short term, even though the current order book was satisfactory.

He said: "The prospects for the start of 1994 promised greater opportunity and optimism for the core businesses with increased house sales and an improved level of contracting inquiries. Our early expectations were soon to be tempered, however, by the uncertainties that have returned to the housing market and the continuing downward pressures on margins."

The group's housebuilding activity has continued to expand its geographical area and its sales volumes. Mr Boot said unit sales rose in the early part of the year, but prices did not. House sales have slowed since May.

The company, whose managing director is Jamie Boot, announced pre-tax profits of £2.6 million in the six months to June (£2.3 million). Turnover was £72 million (£64.6 million). Earnings per share rose to 6.8p (6.3p), and the interim dividend is raised to 1.85p a share (1.7p).

APV chief goes by 'mutual agreement'

By OUR CITY STAFF

CLIVE Strowger, chief executive of APV, the maker of food processing equipment, has left the company "by mutual agreement" following poor interim results announced last month. Neil French, the finance director, takes on a dual role until a replacement for Mr Strowger can be found.

Mr Strowger was paid £340,000 last year, including bonus and pensions contribution. His basic salary was £230,000 a year and though he was entitled to two years' notice compensation of less than two years' pay has been agreed.

Executives were formerly on three-year rolling contracts but Sir Peter Cazelet reduced the contracts to two years when he became chairman in 1989.

Mr Strowger joined APV in June 1992 after a spell as chief executive of Mountleigh, the

failed property group. Sir Peter said at the time: "We are all entitled to make one mistake in our business careers and I suppose Mountleigh was his."

Attempts to restructure APV were set back by fierce competition in the sector. Although interim profits to June 30 rose from £4.4 million to £5.8 million, the dividend was cut and shareholders were warned of further restructuring costs that would be charged against second-half profits.

Mr Strowger was spared an immediate confrontation on the issue with the non-executive directors because Sir Peter left almost immediately on a major UK trade mission to China. Pressure built up on his return.

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ECC buys US group for \$45m

ENGLISH China Clays is enlarging its Calgon Corporation US offshoot with the \$45.4 million purchase of a second chemicals company, EZE Products, which has manufacturing capacity in South Carolina and Washington state (Martin Waller writes).

Andrew Teare, ECC's chief executive, said Calgon, bought in June 1993 "was always the start of the platform for developing our speciality chemicals business". ECC said last month that it had \$100 million to spend on expanding this area, but Mr Teare said further acquisitions were unlikely for a year or so.

The purchase of EZE will strengthen Calgon's position in paper and surface treatment chemicals. EZE should earn margins of 12 per cent.

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Automated Security chief in pay-off talks

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

TOM Buffett, the architect behind Automated Security (Holdings), the alarms group and a former stock market high-flyer now come to earth, is in line for a £1.7 million pay-off after quitting the business.

ASH's shares plunged 5p to a new low of 83p as the group issued third-quarter figures and announced the sudden and unexpected departure. Mr Buffett, formerly chairman and chief executive, is negotiating his pay-off with the company's lawyers. He had a five-year rolling contract and a salary of £343,000, according to the latest report and accounts.

He lives in Florida, and a formal statement from the company said it was "appropriate" that he stand down as he wanted to develop other business opportunities. His replacement as chairman, Lord Lane of Horsell, a former senior partner of BDO Binder

Hamlyn, could not comment further on his departure. Lord Lane added that the five-year package, which strictly contravenes current City guidelines, had been in existence for many years. "He was really the founder of ASH," he said.

A management committee led by Lord Lane is now running the business. Graeme Elliott, a non-executive director, becomes deputy chairman, and a replacement chief executive is being sought.

The third-quarter figures show that while the group's three core businesses are trading well, the results have been depressed by three problem areas. Operating profits dipped slightly in the third quarter, but the non-repetition of one-off costs last year, relating to discontinued contracts, left pre-tax profits ahead from £903,000 to £2.59 million.

Sidlaw raises cash to finance expansion

By NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

SIDLAW is holding its second rights issue within 15 months to help finance a £22 million development programme in its growing packaging division. The company has also put its traditional textiles operations up for sale to concentrate on its newer businesses.

Sidlaw is raising £23.7 million in a one-for-four issue at 180p. The cash will be used to reorganise and expand the flexible packaging business bought from Courtaulds last year. The issue will initially cut group borrowings from £46 million to £22 million, but the proceeds will be absorbed rapidly in the capital spending programme. Sidlaw is planning to spend £15 million in the next 18 months on

its production plants in Britain and Europe. It is also investing another £5 million on its French and Spanish plants.

A further £3 million is being earmarked to build another production line at Sidlaw's Baricol subsidiary near Bristol. Finally, the group is expecting to invest £9 million on a new plant to provide packaging for a single multi-national customer.

Sidlaw has estimated that full-year profits to September 30 were at least £14.5 million, 31 per cent higher than a year ago. However, earnings per share are estimated to have slipped to 20p from 20.4p, due to the dilution caused by last year's rights issue, and a flat performance in the oil services division.

The decision by Sidlaw to sell its Dundee jute spinning businesses, which

makes the backing for carpets, will sever the group from its near 100-year origins. The company was originally called Jute Industries and floated on the stock market in 1920.

Digby Morrow, chief executive, said the group had decided to sell the jute businesses, which made a profit of £800,000 in 1993, because Sidlaw did not have the resources to devote to it. "We cannot do all these things in packaging and cope with textiles as well."

Sidlaw needed to invest to offer international customers a fuller service. In July, it launched Transflex, a subsidiary that can supply packaging throughout Europe to multi-national customers such as Cadbury, Mars and Danone.

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Morrow: textiles sell-off



Vive la difference!

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Dollar weakness pushes shares back below 3,100

FRESH worries about the ailing dollar saw share prices dive back under the 3,100 level and left gilt nursing sizeable losses at the close.

The FT-SE 100 index finished 34.9 down at 3,085.3, unsettled by a futures-related sell-off and an opening fall on Wall Street which saw the Dow Jones industrial average suffer an opening fall of almost 20 points. But selling pressure was described as light and reflected in low turnover levels with just 530 million shares changing hands.

The equity market appeared happy to follow world bond markets lower as the dollar came under renewed pressure against its main rivals on the foreign exchanges.

A better than expected Public Sector Borrowing Requirement cut little with investors although they were perturbed by the latest CBI retail survey showing a pick-up last month.

Among leaders, British Aerospace, which is bidding for VSEL, came in for profit taking, falling 14p to 484p. Earlier this week, the price was bolstered by talk that GEC might bid for both companies. GEC finished 8p lower at 287p, while VSEL shot a similar amount at 513.5p.

The dollar's plight hit international companies. BAT Industries were down 9p to 450p, Incheape 10p to 435p, Glaxo 16p to 598p, and Wellcome 9p to 671p.

As expected, third quarter pre-tax profits at SmithKline Beecham fell from £291 million to £285 million reflecting a sharp drop in US sales of Tagamet, its anti-ulcer treatment, after expiry of the patent in May. SB's profits were also hit by higher interest charges arising from the acquisition of DPS for £2.3 billion in May. The shares ended the day 8p cheaper at 427p.

Royal Bank of Scotland resisted the trend, adding 6p to 431p. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, the shares and is excited by talk of a link between RB's Direct Line insurance arm and a big Spanish bank.

Unigate formed a another 3p to 343p amid growing speculation about the sale of its 32 per cent stake in Nutricia raising at least £200 million.

Warburg Securities, the broker, was buying Rank Organisation, up 4p to 412p, before figures from Xerox Corporation next week and a trading



A gloomy RICS housing survey hit builders yesterday

run-down from the company. Independent Insurance firming up to 251p. The company is in Scotland tomorrow talking to institutions.

The latest gloomy survey on the housing market from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors left builders lower on the day. There were falls for Barratt Developments, 7p to 175p, Beazer Homes, 4p to

134p, Persimmon, 4p to 222p, and George Wimpey, 4p to 143p.

Cable and Wireless firmed up to 415p after announcing plans to spend £230 million expanding its Mercury One-2-One mobile phone network, jointly owned with US West, to the South and Southeast coast along with further expansion in the Midlands. The network is expected to reach 60 per cent

of the population by early 1997. A total of 5660 million had now been committed to the project which had attracted 140,000 customers during its first year of operation.

APV, the food machinery manufacturer, slipped 15p to 72p on learning that Clive Strower, chief executive, had resigned. The role will be taken over by Neil French,

finance director, until a successor is appointed. Sir Peter Cazalet, chairman, said the group would continue with its restructuring programme.

Last month APV gave warning that competition was forcing down prices with no sign of improvement. As a result the interim dividend was halved.

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of its second rights issue in 15 months. It is raising £23.7 million on the basis of one-for-four at 180p. The money will be used to help expand its packaging interests. Sidlaw is forecasting a rise in full-year pre-tax profits from £11.1 million to £14.5 million and is raising the dividend 1p to 11p. The shares fell 16p to 205p.

Peterson Zochonis, the overseas trader famous for Cussons soap, tumbled 51p to 438p with the 'A' non-voting 50p off at 421p after the group gave warning that there would be a shortfall in first-half profits. The group says there are problems in Nigeria where recent troubles had led to a lack of foreign exchange making it difficult to acquire raw materials to keep its factories running. Last year Peterson raised pre-tax profits 11 per cent to £25.1 million.

Shares of APTA Healthcare, which until recently traded as Midland Assets, returned from suspension at 19p. They were suspended awaiting shareholder approval for the reverse takeover of APTA Nursing Services, the private nursing home group. The shares ended at 175p.

Automated Security Holdings fell 5p to 83p on news that Tom Buffett had resigned as chairman. Third-quarter figures showed profits up from £903,000 to £2.5 million.

GILT-EDGED: Gilts were dragged lower by weaker bonds but managed to close above their worst of the day after shrugging off the latest CBI retail survey and discounting better than expected PSBR numbers. Dealers reported a general lack of support as investors awaited detail of the latest gilt auction. The Bank of England has pencilled in October 26, as the day to offer £2.5 billion of Treasury 8 per cent 2000.

The December series of the Long Gilt touched a low for the day of £101.1/32 before ending £17/32 lower at £102 in modest trading which saw only 53,000 contracts completed. In longer Treasury 9 per cent 2010 fell £19/32 to £104 1/2 while at the short end, Treasury 9 1/2 per cent 1999 lost £2 1/8 to £103 2 1/2.

NEW YORK: Profit-taking kept shares lower at midday despite a stream of better-than-expected quarterly earnings reports. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 15.81 points at 3,908.12.

MAJOR INDEXES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	3908.12 (-15.81)
S&P Composite	464.81 (-2.15)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	19992.40 (-34.11)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9418.77 (-37.37)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	405.50 (-2.94)
Sydney:	
ASX	2033.4 (-10.7)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2084.76 (-6.12)
Singapore:	
Strait Times	2383.98 (-3.99)
Brussels:	
General	7225.36 (-2.50)
Paris:	
CAC 40	1898.60 (-7.82)
Zurich:	
SIX Gen	649.10 (-4.00)

London:	
FT 100	2733.9 (-26.5)
FT 100	3085.3 (-34.9)
FT-SE Mid 250	3392.3 (-13.7)
FT-SE Eurozone 100	1335.2 (-9.48)
FT A-List	1534.40 (-14.55)
FT Non Financials	1658.28 (-16.14)
FT Gold Mines	2854.1 (+4.1)
FT Fixed Interest	109.08 (+0.39)
FT Govt Secs	91.78 (-0.5)
Bargains	21758
SEAQ Volume	520.8M
USM (masscon)	157.21 (+0.32)
US\$	1.6149 (+0.0073)
German Mark	2.4240 (+0.0081)
Exchange Index	80.0 (-0.2)
1991	145.0 Sep (2.7%) Jan 1995=100
Bank of England official close (4pm)	

RECENT ISSUES

APTA Health Wts	6
Artesian Estates	71
Compel (125)	112
Conri Foods Wts	14
Emerging Mkts C	61
Ennemix (63)	67
Games Workshop (115)	126
Group Div Cap Wts	30
Hambros Sml Asian	61
Hambros Sml AS Wts	29
Mackie Intl (180)	181
Man Ed & F (180)	172
Servisair (135)	138
Templeton Emerg New	368
Templeton Emerg Wts	192
Wrexham Water	340
Wrexham Water NV	325

RIGHTS ISSUES

APTA Healthcare n/p (17)	4
Canties n/p (118)	13
Dragon Oil n/p (144p)	4
Rediff & Cmn n/p (500)	60
Smurfit (n/p) (1330p)	54
World of Leather n/p (75)	3

MAJOR CHANGES

RISSES:	
Argos Plc	3300 (+90)
Storehouse	2160 (+80)
Miel	2250 (+150)
Yorkshire TV	3850 (+120)
FALLS:	
Lloyds	5840 (-100)
Incheape	4350 (-100)
Bowater	4640 (-110)
8 D Old	8150 (-230)
Boschman Ltd	9920 (-110)
Br Aesthetics	4940 (-140)
BAT	4500 (-80)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Kicking the Tagamet habit

SMITHKLINE Beecham has been a hyperactive product developer and acquirer in the past two years, but its third-quarter figures demonstrate that it had no choice. If the group had attempted to rest on past successes, profits would have slid down the tubes.

These pivotal results show that sales of Tagamet, the anti-ulcer drug, have plummeted even more steeply than expected since its patent expired in the US in May. It has taken the array of SB's new drugs to plug a £105 million hole in the group's revenues.

While the success of the SB's in-house developments cannot be faulted, the wisdom of its recent acquisitions has yet to be proved. The group is being hit by the full dilutive effect of its new subsidiary, Diversified Pharmaceutical Services, the pharmacy benefit manager. The business failed to contribute

to profits because of a £13 million on-going goodwill write-off, in spite of sales of £60 million. While the charge creates a tax benefit, it will be years before the company makes a meaningful contribution. Likewise, Sterling Winthrop, which SB bought for \$2.9 billion in August, will have to perform to cover the cost of amortising its own goodwill.

SB has yet to resolve several issues clouding its future. It is unclear how much it will be able to boost its drug sales by supplying DPS, the key to winning any benefit from the costly deal. The group must also prove that the over-the-counter market is profitable enough to justify the price it paid for Sterling. But now it has laid Tagamet aside without suffering withdrawal symptoms, SB can work on its acquisitions, knowing that the core pharmaceutical business is beyond reproach.

Sidlaw

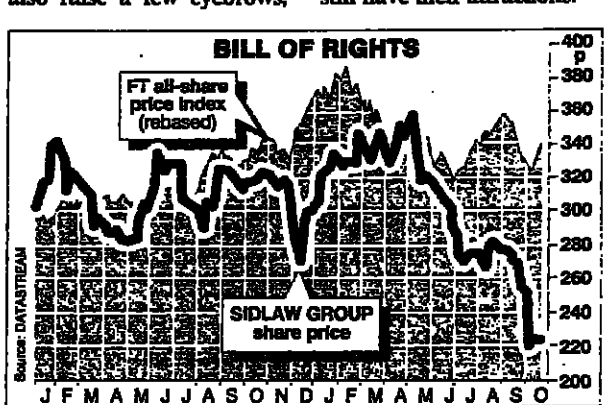
SIDLAW has some cheek passing the hat round its shareholders for the second time in two years to finance its passion for packaging. Shareholders who paid 275p a share in last year's cash call will not be overjoyed that the company is issuing another slice of equity at only 180p a share, thanks to the recent slide in the shares.

The company made the mistake of not asking for sufficient funds when it really needed them after the acquisition of Courtauld's flexible packaging business last year. Now it is forced to return to the market to raise the cash to beef up the business. The mistake will be expensive, since the yield on the shares at the rights price is 7.6 per cent.

Sidlaw's plans for packaging have considerable potential, particularly the formation of a single company to

supply international companies throughout Europe. But blunders in presentation and timing will not win it friends in the City. Sidlaw's earnings fell slightly in the year just ended, hardly the most attractive background for another rights issue. The company's decision to make a further £6.3 million acquisition provision against the Courtauld's business will also raise a few eyebrows,

even though it was flagged in last year's annual report. The new shares are priced at only nine times earnings, so existing investors have little choice but to take up the rights. Earnings growth is likely to be minimal for a couple of years, while the company digests the latest equity issue. But the high yield and long-term potential for the packaging business still have their attractions.



ECC

THE purchase of EZE, of South Carolina, by English China Clays looks on the face of it expensive. It expands ECC's Calson business that has yet to demonstrate its true worth more than 15 months after its purchase. But the headline profit of \$12 million that EZE managed in 1993 is misleading when set against the \$45.4 million purchase price.

EZE, which provides ECC's specialty chemicals division with an enlarged sales network concentrated in the Southern states, was a family firm that for tax reasons reported its profits on a directly conservative basis. ECC's Andrew Teare claims that job cuts and other cost savings would boost pre-tax profits by \$3.1 million and that these are as good as assured.

ECC's own numbers, therefore, put an earnings

multiple of 15 times on the acquisition after the planned cost savings on a fully taxed basis and a multiple of 11.7 times on the 20 per cent tax rate the company currently enjoys because of favourable treatment for minerals extraction businesses in the US.

This is rather more attractive since such businesses never come cheap. But the jury remains out on ECC's switch into specialty chemicals, the most radical plank of Mr Teare's on-going restructuring programme. ECC's shares are selling on 21 times current year earnings forecasts and 16 times next year's, which suggests the good news is already in the price.

APV

CLIVE Strower's departure from the helm of APV should come as no surprise given the amount of red ink unleashed with last month's halfway

figures and dividend cut. But while this provides the company with an appropriate scapegoat for its abrupt plunge from grace, APV remains in dire shape.

Any bets on future performance must be heavily dependent on the size of this year's one-off provisions and just how much of the business will be left to make something resembling a profit thereafter. The company found itself in its current desperate straits after margins were savaged by the arrival of stiff competition from the German GEA business.

The impending provisions could reach £50 million. The company's best bet remains a bid from GEA or a competitor keen to limit the latter's fast growth. But with little guarantee that any bid will be close to the current price, it would seem rash to buy the shares for recovery.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE				ICE-LSR (London & Liffe)				GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			
COCOA				CRUDE OILS \$/barrl FOB				WHEAT		BARLEY	
Dec	999-08	Mar	1009-10	Brent 15 day (Nov)	16.10	+0.25	Nov	104.80	Nov	101.90	
Mar	997-08	Jun	1007-10	Brent 15 day (Dec)	16.15	+0.15	Jan	106.00	Jan	106.70	
Jun	995-08	Sep	1005-10	WTexas Intermediate (Nov)	17.30	+0.15	May	107.20	May	108.00	
Sep	992-08	Dec	1002-10	WTexas Intermediate (Dec)	17.40	+0.10	Nov	108.60	Nov	109.70	
Dec	991-08	Mar	1001-10				Volume 394		Volume 10		
Mar	989-08	Jun	1000-10								
Jun	987-08	Sep	999-10								
Sep	985-08	Dec	997-10								
Dec	983-08	Mar	995-10								
Mar	981-08	Jun	993-10								
Jun	979-08	Sep	991-10								
Sep	977-08	Dec	989-10								
Dec	975-08	Mar	987-10								
Mar	973-08	Jun	985-10								
Jun	971-08	Sep	983-10								
Sep	969-08	Dec	981-10								
Dec	967-08	Mar	979-10								
Mar	965-08	Jun	977-10								
Jun	963-08	Sep	975-10								
Sep	961-08	Dec	973-10								
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Mar	957-08	Jun	969-10								
Jun	955-08	Sep	967-10								
Sep	953-08	Dec	965-10								
Dec	951-08	Mar	963-10								
Mar	949-08	Jun	961-10								
Jun	947-08	Sep	959-10								
Sep	945-08	Dec	957-10								
Dec	943-08	Mar	955-10								
Mar	941-08	Jun	953-10								
Jun	939-08	Sep	951-10								
Sep	937-08	Dec	949-10								
Dec	935-08	Mar	947-10								
Mar	933-08	Jun	945-10								
Jun	931-08	Sep	943-10								
Sep	929-08	Dec	941-10								
Dec	927-08	Mar	939-10								
Mar	925-08	Jun	937-10								
Jun	923-08	Sep	935-10								
Sep	921-08	Dec	933-10								
Dec	919-08	Mar	931-10								
Mar	917-08	Jun	929-10								
Jun	915-08	Sep	927-10								
Sep	913-08	Dec	925-10								
Dec	911-08	Mar	923-10								
Mar	909-08	Jun	921-10								
Jun	907-08	Sep	919-10								
Sep	905-08	Dec	917-10								
Dec	903-08	Mar	915-10								
Mar	901-08	Jun	913-10								
Jun	899-08	Sep	911-10								
Sep	897-08	Dec	909-10								
Dec	895-08	Mar	907-10								
Mar	893-08	Jun	905-10								
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Sep	857-08	Dec	869-10								
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Mar	853-08	Jun	865-10								
Jun	851-08	Sep	863-10								
Sep	849-08	Dec	861-10								
Dec	847-08	Mar	859-10								
Mar	845-08	Jun	857-10								
Jun	843-08	Sep	855-10								
Sep	841-08	Dec	853-10								
Dec	839-08	Mar	851-10								
Mar	837-08	Jun	849-10								
Jun	835-08	Sep	847-10								
Sep	833-08	Dec	845-10								
Dec	831-08	Mar	843-10								
Mar	829-08	Jun	841-10								
Jun	827-08	Sep	839-10								
Sep	825-08	Dec	837-10								
Dec	823-08	Mar	835-10								
Mar	821-08	Jun	833-10								
Jun	819-08	Sep	831-10								
Sep	817-08	Dec	829-10								
Dec	815-08	Mar	827-10								
Mar	813-08	Jun	825-10								
Jun	811-08	Sep	823-10								
Sep	809-08	Dec	821-10								
Dec	807-08	Mar	819-10								
Mar	805-08	Jun	817-10								
Jun	803-08	Sep	815-10								
Sep	801-08	Dec	813-10								
Dec	799-08	Mar	811-10								
Mar	797-08	Jun	809-10								
Jun	795-08	Sep	807-10								
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Mar	781-08	Jun	793-10								
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Mar	773-08	Jun	785-10								
Jun	771-08	Sep	783-10								
Sep	769-08	Dec	781-10								
Dec	767-08	Mar	779-10								
Mar	765-08	Jun	777-10								
Jun	763-08	Sep	775-10								
Sep	761-08	Dec	773-10								
Dec	759-08	Mar	771-10								
Mar	757-08	Jun	769-10								
Jun	755-08	Sep	767-10								
Sep	753-08	Dec	765-10								
Dec	751-08	Mar	763-10								
Mar	749-08	Jun	761-10								
Jun	747-08	Sep	759-10								
Sep	745-08	Dec	757-10								
Dec	743-08	Mar	755-10								
Mar	741-08	Jun	753-10								
Jun	739-08	Sep	751-10								
Sep	737-08	Dec	749-10								
Dec	735-08	Mar	747-10								
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Jun	731-08	Sep	743-10								
Sep	729-08	Dec	741-10								
Dec	727-08	Mar	739-10								
Mar	725-08	Jun	737-10								
Jun	723-08	Sep	735-10								
Sep	721-08	Dec	733-10								
Dec	719-08	Mar	731-10								
Mar	717-08	Jun	729-10								
Jun	715-08	Sep	727-10								
Sep	713-08	Dec	725-10								
Dec	711-08	Mar	723-10								
Mar	709-08	Jun	721-10								
Jun	707-08	Sep	719-10								
Sep	705-08	Dec	717-10								
Dec	703-08	Mar	715-10								
Mar	701-08	Jun	713-10								
Jun	699-08	Sep	711-10								
Sep	697-08	Dec	709-10								
Dec	695-08	Mar	707-10								
Mar	693-08	Jun	705-10								
Jun	691-08	Sep	703-10								
Sep	689-08	Dec	701-10								
Dec	687-08	Mar	699-10								
Mar	685-08	Jun	697-10								
Jun	683-08	Sep	695-10								
Sep	681-08	Dec	693-10								
Dec	679-08	Mar	691-10								
Mar	677-08	Jun	689-10								
Jun	675-08	Sep	687-10								
Sep	673-08	Dec	685-10								
Dec	671-08	Mar	683-10								
Mar	669-08	Jun	681-10								
Jun	667-08	Sep	679-10								
Sep	665-08	Dec	677-10								
Dec	663-08	Mar	675-10								
Mar	661-08	Jun	673-10								
Jun	659-08	Sep	671-10								
Sep	657-08	Dec	669-10								
Dec	655-08	Mar	667-10								
Mar	653-08	Jun	665-10								
Jun	651-08	Sep	663-10								
Sep	649-08	Dec	661-10								
Dec	647-08	Mar	659-10								
Mar	645-08	Jun	657-10								
Jun	643-08	Sep	655-10								
Sep	641-08	Dec	653-10								
Dec	639-08	Mar	651-10								
Mar	637-08	Jun	649-10								
Jun	635-08	Sep	647-10								
Sep	633-08	Dec	645-10								
Dec	631-08	Mar	643-10								
Mar	629-08	Jun	641-10								
Jun	627-08	Sep	639-10								
Sep	625-08	Dec	637-10								
Dec	623-08	Mar	635-10								
Mar	621-08	Jun	633-10								
Jun	619-08	Sep	631-10								
Sep	617-08	Dec	629-10								
Dec	615-08	Mar	627-10								
Mar	613-08	Jun	625-10								
Jun	611-08	Sep	623-10								
Sep</											

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Americans pay for ignorance

FOUR out of five Americans are financial illiterates, and their ignorance will likely lose them significant amounts of money, according to a new survey sponsored by Merrill Lynch. Faced with ten reasonably simple questions about inflation, the US federal budget deficit, social security, and other money matters, just 2 per cent could answer nine questions correctly. No one got a perfect score. Less than a third of respondents could place the current annual inflation rate as being between 2 and 4 per cent. Twelve per cent believed inflation was higher than 10 per cent — despite America's single-digit inflation rate for the past decade. Only 11 per cent of those questioned could say that the US federal budget deficit ran between \$100 billion and \$400 billion. Most confused the annual deficit with the national debt, and more than half were afraid to even hazard a guess at the difference. About 82 per cent of respondents failed to reach the pass mark of answering at least six of the survey's ten questions correctly. Other questions included the approximate level of the Dow Jones industrial average and the name of the Federal Reserve chairman — Alan Greenspan. Among those who passed the test, the areas of greatest knowledge were mortgage and interest rates. Those attaining the best scores were male, aged between 50 and 64, married, better educated and — surprise, surprise — richer than other respondents.



Roubled

WHILE the Queen was in Moscow last night toasting her hosts, British bankers in London were toasting Moscow Narodny Bank's 75th anniversary, to which Victor Geraschenko had been invited. At sunset yesterday, he was still expected to attend. Earlier this week, Geraschenko's career as chairman of Russia's central bank was rudely interrupted by trouble. On his resignation, a colleague said: "There's evidently still a God in heaven."

Body talk

HOW strange. In a "special statement to the Stock Exchange" Dublin-based Arcon International said it had been informed by Professor Richard Conroy (chairman and chief executive), James Jones and Maurice Jones (brother and sister) "of their declared inability to carry out their respective executive functions as, in their opinion, the company had unilaterally and wrongfully repudiated their contracts. They continue as directors of the company, however," Arcon said. The professor is used to stress. In February 1992, he was ousted in a putsch by dissident shareholders, but survived to be reinstated by Tony O'Reilly. Conroy is a professor of physiology at the Royal College of Surgeons, and a world expert on circadian rhythms — or how things such as stress and jet lag affect the way in which the body works.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Will Tokyo's river of bad debts burst its banks?

Joanna Pitman
reports on the
parlous and
outdated state of
Japanese banking

At first sight, Japan's leading banks do not give the impression of being among the most powerful financial institutions in the world. Customers at busy Tokyo branches are seldom surprised to find themselves waiting 45 minutes to complete simple financial transactions such as paying bills. As cheques are rarely used in Japan, they must go through separate visits, separate waits and separate transactions every time they want to make sizeable purchases. Considerately, the bank provides them with piles of scandal magazines to while away the time, but if they have already consumed these, they can content themselves with watching the droves of uniformed bank employees staggering around with piles of scribbled and curling bills and heavy ledgers, which are still handwritten, stamped and carbon copied (and occasionally, in less urban regions, checked with an abacus), as if the microchip had never been invented.

In terms of assets, however, many of the largest banks in the world are Japanese. This is probably due in large part to the fact that the vast majority of their assets are denominated in a currency of which the US dollar value has almost tripled since the Plaza Accord G5 meeting in 1985.

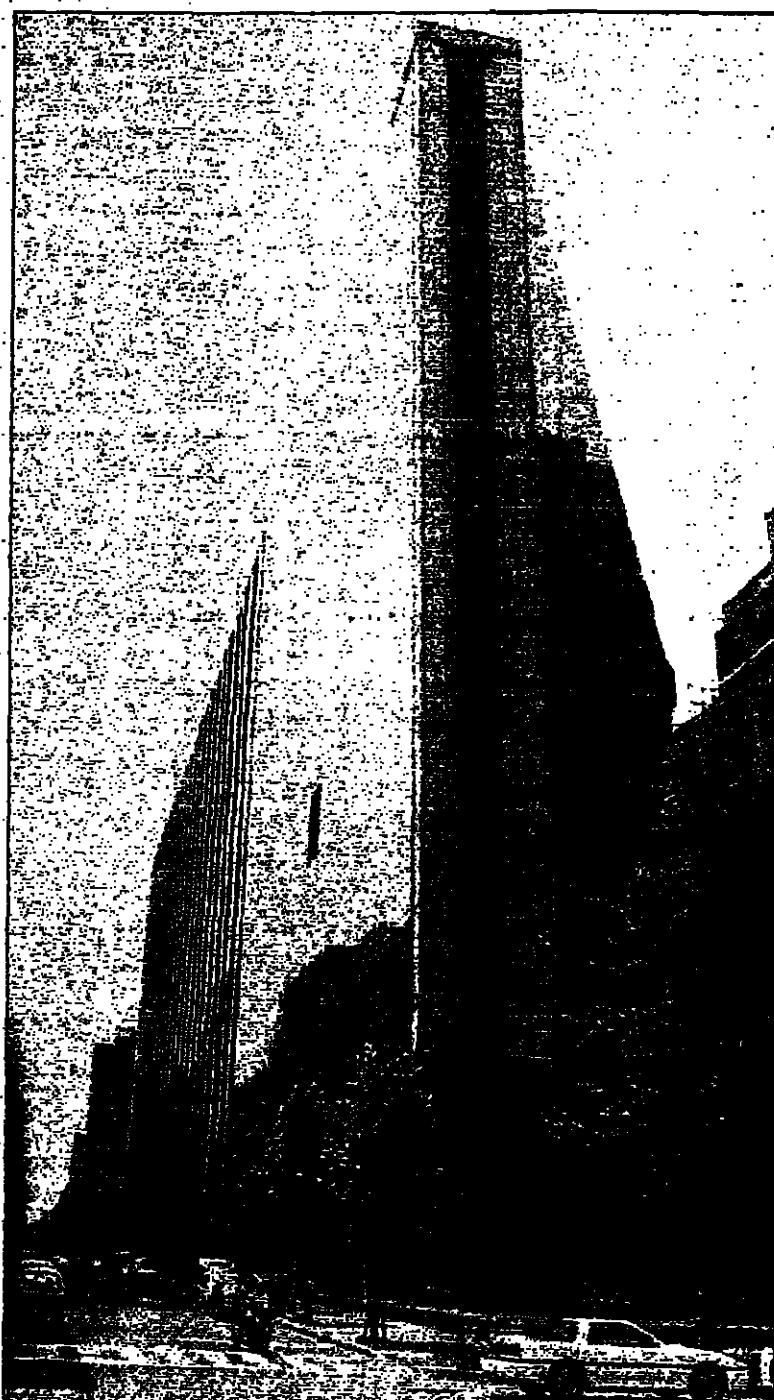
In terms of profitability, though, not one bank in the top ten. By the usual criteria of banking efficiency, the record of Japan's banks has been abysmal. And if projections on the sector's future profitability are accurate, Japanese banks have a long way to go to recover from the effects of the mountains of bad debt under which they are currently struggling.

The problem of the banking sector's cumulative bad debts of 30 trillion yen (£191 billion), apart from looking very scary on any banking balance sheet, is both practical and psychological.

"We just need a couple more years to write off the bad debts," says a cheerful deputy manager of one of the leading banks. "Falling loan loss provisions, the replacement of non-performing assets with sound lending and a strict rationalisation of management will put us safely back on the path to strong profit growth. Just look at the American banks. They put the worst of their bad debt problems behind them within three years of it reaching its peak. We can do the same."

The good cheer seems, unfortunately, to be misplaced. It offers an uncanny reminder of the breezy optimism with which even the most august of Japanese financial institutions extended themselves into the realms of high-risk lending during the "bubble era" of the late 1980s, when real estate and equity assets acquired up to three times their realistic value and inflation spiralled.

The banks' traditional corporate borrowers were lured into the capital



The Tokyo head office of the Industrial Bank of Japan, which was embroiled in one of the country's biggest loan scandals, involving a former waitress

markets and into the rapidly burgeoning equities market, leaving the banks to compete for business with such shady characters as Nui Onoue, the Buddhist ex-waitress who stung the revered Industrial Bank of Japan for vast unspecified loans before going bust at a cost of ¥410 billion in 1990.

Now, five years after the peak, the full extent of the banks' individual debts has become clearer and a pattern is emerging that allows projection of the survival rate of the main banks over the long term. "Some banks, like Nippon Trust Bank, may need up to 100 years to get over this debt problem," said Yukiko Ohara, banking analyst at UBS Securities in Tokyo.

The problem with likening their own efforts to overcome the debt burden to those of American banks is that Japanese banks have far smaller losses provisions in terms of business profit from which to write off their debts. Also, Japan's bad debt problem is far larger than that of the US. In June 1991,

at their peak, bad debts accounted for 52 per cent of US bank lending. In March 1994, they accounted for 3.5 per cent of the lending of Japan's 21 city, long-term credit and trust banks. But the Japanese definition of bad debt does not include restructured loans or those that have been in arrears for less than six months. And there are other types of problematic assets, such as those on which interest is only partially paid, which are also excluded under Japan's face-saving definition. If American criteria were to be applied, Japan's bad debt burden would account for 7.8 per cent of total loans outstanding.

"Because the Japanese banks are less profitable than their American counterparts, the write-off process will take at least two or three times longer than the US precedent," said Ms Ohara, at UBS. She expects a pattern to emerge which will reveal clear divisions between individual bank recoveries, depending on their profitability and the speed with which they can cushion

write-offs. "A small number of large banks, including Fuji Bank, Sanwa Bank and Sumitomo Bank, have a greater profit cushion for write-offs and they should complete the process in two to three years. Weaker banks, such as Sakura Bank and Dai Ichi Kangyo Bank (DKB), will take five or six and most of the others with such weakened core earnings will not have recovered by the end of the century."

Write-offs are weighing heavily on the balance sheet. DKB, for example, had spent, by March 1994, ¥341 billion on write-offs, loan loss provisions and other debt sales losses. Tokai Bank had spent ¥444 billion and Sakura Bank ¥312 billion.

To staunch the spillage of all this red ink, loan restructuring plans are cited by the optimistic as hopeful grounds for a rapid US-style recovery. But much of this restructured debt, under reduced interest rates, is merely debt that has been rolled over indefinitely. Many loan restructuring plans are also likely to be undermined by the deteriorating business environment for borrowers and the protracted slump in the property market, which indicate that banks will be forced to take on an ever-expanding burden of restructured assets, further postponing recovery.

The potential for an improvement in banks' core earnings to cushion the protracted recovery does not look happy, either. "Large numbers of potential borrowers, particularly small and medium-sized companies, are going directly to the capital markets to borrow now," said a spokesman for the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. "Also, there is less borrowing requirement for investment into things like new facilities and machinery because there is still heavy overcapacity from the boom years."

Japan's banks desperately need alternative business if they are to survive, and this means turning again to risky borrowers or derivative business. For this they need sophisticated, rock-solid risk control systems and fast, imaginative decision-making capabilities — neither obvious Japanese strengths.

Having been funded for generations by the world's most scrupulous savers, the banks believed they could tough out any profit slump with equanimity. Risk management had never been much of a priority. Lessons from the late 1980s should have alerted banks to the need for just such systems, but only a handful have so far reached the standards of their European or US counterparts.

The first of the 21 imperilled banks to complete their write-offs will be the first to start diversifying and expanding their sources of profit in new markets. The laggards will, once they get through their write-offs, be left with the riskier sources of business, pushing them further down the profitability scale and polarising the sector further.

The Ministry of Finance retains a fierce pride in its long postwar record of no banking bankruptcies (one that has admittedly been helped by a charitable definition of bankruptcy to exclude the stage-managed takeover). But the parlous current state of the sector of which it was once so proud is no longer anything to crow about. If Tokyo's financial analysts are to be believed, the Ministry of Finance will be doing well to survive the next ten years without a bank failure on its books.



Reining in the elitist thugs of Whitehall

If you meet a man in Whitehall with a smug grin on his face this week, you can safely bet that he does not work for the Treasury. There is a good deal of fear and despondency inside those on the chop list wonder where they will find their next desk, those on the possibles list are biting their nails, and the elite of the elite are wondering how they will cope. Elsewhere, *schadenfreude*. The Treasury has never been loved.

Does this mean that the rest of us should rejoice? Only up to a point, Lord Copper. The hostility of other departments is, on the whole, evidence that the Treasury is doing its job. It is not impossible to maintain the goodwill of those whose budgets you have to cut. At least two Chief Secretaries have achieved it: Joel Barnett under Labour, and much more recently, John Major. But both are notably modest men, and modesty is not the quality the Treasury seeks as it tries, each year, to scoop off the cream of Civil Service recruits. It knows it is traditionally the elite of an elite, and all too often it shows.

Arrogance, the charge universally brought against Treasury officials, might be tolerable if it was thought to be earned; but on the whole it is not. The most extreme charges were laid a decade ago by an economic historian, Professor Sidney Pollard, who argued that the Treasury was responsible for the relative decline of the British economy since the war — or perhaps since about 1860, which is when it actually started. More modestly, Joe Haines concluded after the Wilson experience that "the Treasury can take any problem and turn it into a crisis".

The relative decline has not been nearly so evident in the past decade, so it may at length have begun to get something right but repeated Treasury-induced crises, from the 1962 slump through the Lawson boom to the ERM debacle, suggest that the economy has caught up as much in spite of as because of Treasury policies.

A more convincing defence, which is intellectually fashionable nowadays, is

that policy has very little effect on the performance of the economy, and the best the Treasury can do is to reduce the quantity of it. Since Whitehall is much less interventionist in the business world than it used to be, score one for Great George Street; but note that this is the central case for cutting the staff.

Another test: are the internal affairs of Whitehall well run? Not very. A National Institute of Economic and Social Research survey on the forecasting record of the Treasury against outsiders was quite flattering in most respects, but one number let it down.

Official forecasts of public spending were easily the worst available. That sounds wholly damning, since this is the number the Treasury is supposed to control, but "control" in this case is a euphemism for what amounts to a permanent exercise in games theory. Departments try to pad their bids for comfort, then to get them spent to protect next year's allocation: the Treasury micro-managers try to second-guess them. The cuts suggest that this is now recognised as a no-win game.

The gravest charge, though, is that the Treasury has always been obsessed with symbols: the balance of payments, the broad money supply, or the PSBR — a book-keeper's concept which Harold Lever, Labour's business genius, endlessly tried to demolish.

Nowadays it is the rate of inflation, a problem at times, but has nobody noticed that we have had zero inflation for five months now? My own view is that these serial obsessions are the natural result of putting gifted amateurs in charge of a world of which they have no experience. As a footnote, the reports do not suggest that the Treasury is about to cut manning in the function which could most easily be jobbed out — running the official model of the economy. A hundred-flowers approach through the universities might well do more to discover how the economy actually works.

Janet Bush advises the Chancellor to stop scoffing

Brown's theory of economic growth is just common sense

Even as he lampooned the Labour Party's new contribution to the economic debate in his speech to the Conservative Party conference, Kenneth Clarke displayed that he did not understand what he was attacking.

Three times, Mr Clarke mocked the post neo-classical indigenous growth theory. Wrong. The word is *endogenous*. So, as a service to the Chancellor, *The Times* will try to explain what this impenetrable phrase means.

"Post neo-classical endogenous growth theory" burst on to the scene in a speech by Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, to a large audience of academic economists in September. What was meant as a serious attempt to challenge the intellectual dominance of free market (or neo-classical) economics, however, ended up as a big custard pie chucked at Mr Brown by the tabloid press.

Endogenous growth theory is, in fact, a complicated name for a large dose of common sense. Most people in business and industry would take its main principles as given.

The dictionary definition of endogenous is "developing or originating from within an organism". The Labour Party believes that economies are dynamic, that change can be generated from within and government policy can have a real effect on raising the sustainable growth potential of the economy.

In contrast, Tory neo-classical economics, as Gordon Brown puts it, appears to



"Endogenous growth" was a custard pie for Gordon Brown

believe that "the growth rate is an 'act of God', independent of all human action, unchanging in the face of government policy".

So it is that the Bank of England — backed up by internal estimates that Britain's sustainable growth rate may now only be 1.75 per cent a year — argued for the base rate increase in September and won. Despite his misgivings, Mr Clarke was unable to break free from the deeply ingrained Conservative dogma that government cannot affect growth rates. If 1.75 per cent is all we can have, then so be it.

Labour takes issue with such passivity. The successful East Asian economies, which have grown rapidly and created jobs, have three things in common: heavy investment in skills and education; an acceptance that small businesses need special support; and

hands-on government to mastermind these policies. These practical examples are increasingly backed up by academic work. Endogenous growth theorists have shown that investment in education and training, and in plant and machinery, are among the most important factors leading to an acceleration of the sustainable rate of growth.

More than this, these two are linked. Research by Bradford De Long and Lawrence Summers, key influences on the Clinton Administration, found that each extra percentage point in the equipment investment share of GDP raises growth by 0.3 of a point, compared with 0.02 of a point from other types of investment. Investment in equipment has a much greater effect on growth than other forms of investment, because people

learn their skills by using the technology. Education, as a by-product of machinery investment or as an end in itself, is crucial to endogenous growth theorists. Research by Robert Barro suggests that a 10 per cent increase in educational attainment increases growth by 0.2 per cent a year.

The implication of this is that governments should step in and maximise the commitment to these growth-inducing areas — through tax incentives, subsidies, more active public policy. But the endogenous growth theorists are not talking about old-style interventionism, in which government protected established firms against newcomers or attempted to "pick winners".

Summers and De Long believe that the Pacific Rim economies have been so successful because they have combined subsidies for equipment investment with a ferocious degree of domestic competition. Furthermore, there is an understanding that government must pursue stable macro-economic policies. Large budget deficits are out. So is any temptation to cut taxes, and to increase spending and borrowing. This only puts companies and investors off investing and Labour's new economics takes all this on board.

What of Mr Clarke and his team, mystified by the fact that firms are not investing in response to economic recovery? Perhaps they should stop scoffing and start reading. Endogenous growth theory is a great deal more sensible than its name.



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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19 1994

[illegible]

Coming soon to a satellite near you, the BBC's two European channels. Will Britain be able to receive them and does it want to?

When one dish is not enough



BRENDA MADDOX

I thought you were kitted out for the New Tomorrow because you have a satellite dish? Wrong.

In a week or so the BBC will announce the launch in January of two European channels, one carrying its vaunted World Television Service news, the other a general entertainment channel. But the two will not be available on the ordinary British dish.

The main problem lies in the satellites carrying the channels. One is owned by Eutelsat, an arm of European telecommunications authorities, the other by Inmarsat, the international organisation. These are at a different place in the sky than the Astra cluster of satellites, owned by a private Luxembourg company, which presently fill British dishes.

Until now, the Eutelsat and Astra systems have not really clashed because they have not aimed at the same audience. The programmes on Astra marketed by Sky Television (half-owned by

News International, owners of *The Times*) are intended for reception in Britain. Eutelsat's programmes, in various languages, aim across the Continent, from Spain to Ukraine.

But competition between the two systems is on its way. In December, Eutelsat will launch a satellite, Hot Bird, spraying 16 new channels into the Euro-mix. Some of these will interest the British viewer: NBC's SuperChannel, the 24-hour Dow Jones business news service and the European version of the rock music channel, MTV. Or would, if only the Astra dishes could pick them up.

But perhaps they can. My local aerial installer tells me that they can adapt my Astra dish to receive Eutelsat by bolting a second little black arm to the front of the dish. Or I could choose to buy a larger

dish: 90 centimetres rather than 60cm, which could, in the parlance, "look" at both satellites at once.

A simpler option might be to subscribe to cable. This already provides a wide mixture of programmes taken from various satellites. My local Videotron, for example, offers the NBC SuperChannel and many others not available on the Astra dish. But the choice is not that simple.

In Britain, the dishes had such a head start that there are now more than ten times as many dishes as cable connections. Moreover, many homes that now have cable in the street are deciding nonetheless to stick with their dish. It's a hard decision. They find they can't easily re-sell a dish, and cable looks more expensive. On the other hand, cable's advantages are in-

comparable: telephony, interactive services as well as a greater number of channels.

The solution, I'm told, for hundreds of homes in my own cable area is to choose both: to have cable television in the living room, satellite television in the bedroom. I'm not ready for the double helping. If I switched to cable, I would have to pay to watch CNN,

which I now get for nothing (except the price of sitting through its interminable commercials). And I would have to pay also to glimpse the Euro-sleaze that floats unscrambled into our dish. If you have not watched *Sat1* on a Saturday night, you have no idea of what our German cousins are really like, or of how wasted are the various regulatory efforts to keep Britain pure.

What is more, as British cable needs a licence from the Independent Television Commission for its programme services, it will not be allowed to carry the BBC World Service Television, designed for the Continent only. And that is one satellite service I know that I want to watch — to see BBC television news on the hour and to see how the BBC juggles its promise to be non-commercial domestically

and entrepreneurial overseas.

Dish reception, in essence, is freer than cable. It gives you the sense that television is really a form of radio: a device for catching what you can from what is floating through the air.

So who wants 16 extra channels? With 21 satellite channels available from Astra, with three dozen or more available on cable and with the plain old terrestrial four offering very good stuff lately, most people in Britain have quite enough to occupy their eyeballs for an evening. Some, to judge from the Booker hoo-ha, still even read books.

The answer is obvious: nobody and everybody. As channel proliferation is inevitable, it must be the general good that the choice is as wide as possible. You don't

want to read most of the books in the local library, any more than you want to buy most of the unnameable vegetables in the supermarket or to ring most numbers in the telephone directory. Yet you have to be glad that the range is there.

Those alarmed by the whole prospect of proliferating channels — and digital television, which is around the corner, will multiply satellite channel capacity even more — can take comfort from the fact that the total cable-satellite audience in Britain is still small. Its highest audiences are about 800,000, compared with the 10 million or more drawn by the top 70 BBC and ITV programmes.

The sceptics ought also to appreciate that the new channels steal audiences from each other as well as from the BBC, ITV and Channel 4. What really matters in a fragmenting market is that the points of access to it are widening. That has to be good news, on a global scale.

Sensation still a big seller

Sensational royal stories still beat every other tactic used to sell national newspapers, especially if they are marketed with a 50 per cent price cut.

With the dramatic revelations from Jonathan Dimbleby's book on the Prince of Wales, sales of *The Sunday Times*, selling for one week only at 50p, were boosted last weekend by about 350,000 (51 per cent).

For *The Sunday Times*, the initial impact of the Dimbleby serialisation was a triumph, outstripping by more than 150,000 the sales increase achieved when it serialised Andrew Morton's book on the Princess of Wales two years ago. Nor were sales of any other Sunday papers seriously affected by Sunday morning the story, followed up from *The Sunday Times*, was on every front page.

On past experience, readers who buy newspapers for royal gossip are promiscuous, quickly dropping their new buy once a juicy serialisation ends. For most newspapers, the most successful tactic to win back readers is still pricing, according to the September circulation report from the Audit Bureau of Circulations, even though the rate of acceleration of sales after 15 months is slowing.

Since it cut its price by 18p to 30p on weekdays, *The Daily Telegraph* has boosted sales by almost 100,000, although they only just held steady last month. Meanwhile, sales of *The Times* have increased by another 82,000 since it responded to *The Daily Telegraph* by reducing the price still further.

Brian MacArthur

ther to 20p in July. The figures are up by 252,000 since the original 15p price reduction to 30p a year ago.

The record of *The Sun* is the most startling. Its sales have risen by 684,000 since the original price cut in July last year and were still rising last month after a 5p price increase to 25p.

The *Daily Mirror* — which was down 76,000 a year ago — has suffered under the onslaught from *The Sun* but sales have now held steady at about 2.5 million since February and have risen every month since June. Today, which has cut its price to 10p once a month, is up 52,000.

Price cuts obviously work only if readers enjoy and respect the new papers that they buy. Yet, as is shown by the success of *The Guardian*, still selling at 45p, the *Financial Times* (45p), the *Daily Mail*, which increased its price to 32p last autumn, and *The Sunday Telegraph* (up almost 90,000 on last year), journalism of conviction and flair aimed at niche readerships also sells papers.

After serialising *Songs My Mother Taught Me*, Martin Brando's autobiography, *The Guardian* recorded the highest sales increase of any national daily last month.

September 1994: National dailies ABC figures

Quality	Air daily	Compared with Sept 93	Air daily	Compared with Sept 93
<i>The Telegraph</i>	1,081,822	+5.2	1,081,822	+5.2
<i>The Times</i>	971,000	+2.7	971,000	+2.7
<i>The Guardian</i>	418,786	+1.3	418,786	+1.3
<i>The Independent</i>	250,284	+1.3	250,284	+1.3
<i>The Daily Mail</i>	1,778,751	+15.7	1,778,751	+15.7
<i>The Express</i>	1,235,000	+4.7	1,235,000	+4.7
<i>The Sun</i>	611,883	+2.5	611,883	+2.5
<i>The Mirror</i>	4,148,880	+2.7	4,148,880	+2.7
<i>The Sunday Times</i>	2,220,000	+2.5	2,220,000	+2.5
<i>The Sunday Telegraph</i>	725,500	+2.5	725,500	+2.5

Critics at the blunt end

Arts reviews should be at the intellectual heart of a newspaper, not marginalised or penned by ignorant celebrities, argues

Richard Morrison, arts editor of *The Times*

What future for those who sit in darkness and dip their pens in vitriol? On the face of it, newspaper critics have never had it so good. The arts are often big news these days. Last week alone the Booker row, Pink Floyd's collapsing stand and the boos for Covent Garden's Ring all made broadsheet front pages. Plenty of scope there, one would think, for expert comment.

Meanwhile, arts pages have expanded beyond anybody's expectation. As recently as 1989, for instance, *The Times* was running a single arts page each day; now there are three. Other broadsheets have made similar investments. When one considers that the level of arts activity has probably slightly decreased over the same period — as the recession has taken a grip — this explosion of journalistic activity is all the more remarkable. For the cultured youngster who is resourceful and has a reasonable grasp of punctuation, a career in arts journalism has never been easier.

But arts journalism is one thing, criticism quite another. The paradoxical fact about all this extra arts space is that it has not generally helped the critics. Quite the opposite, in fact. In many broadsheets the arts pages are now entirely "feature led". This means that most of the space is devoted to large, glowing previews written by arts journalists. Sometimes, moreover, these previews will appear weeks before the event, so that the newspaper is not scooped on its "exclusive interview" with Dame Joan Lurvie — though what sort of "scoop" it is when the whole thing has been engineered by a public relations consultant must be a matter of debate.

Then, when the critics finally have their say, their reviews are often tucked into little holes between the advertisements. Critics — who should be at the intellectual heart of a newspaper, its eyes and ears in the worlds of higher culture — are marginalised. Their specialist knowledge is mocked as being too inaccessible, esoteric or elitist. Soon, they are replaced by the "celebrity reviewer", the clapped-out politician, perhaps, or the brash young political journalist who thinks that a couple of gormless concert reviews would look good in his clippings; or the all-purpose, teenage know-all who has never heard of Chabrol but who

nevertheless believe that the future of film criticism lies with them.

Is this too cynical? The short answer is no. It's happening, though not on this newspaper. Critics partly have themselves to blame. In the 1980s, when broadsheets took many steps down the populist road, the critics were often the last to realise what was happening. They failed to fight their corner where it mattered: inside the newspaper. Indeed, some never entered the building.

Consequently, they failed to spot the trend towards previews. And when it was imposed upon them they resented it — especially when the imposing was done by an arts-editor-for-15-minutes who was clearly on his way to something much grander and more lucrative.

But something else undermined the critics even more. From the wild world of television reviewing came the extraordinary (but now widespread) idea that critics did not actually have to know anything about the medium being reviewed, as long as they were "being witty". Today, we have a great many witty television critics — and more rubbish being pumped out by BBC and ITV than ever before in Britain. Are these phenomena by any chance related?

The idea was catching. If you employ television critics who know nothing about television history or technique, why not opera critics who cannot read a score? Terry Eagleton coined the phrase "the critic as clown", and it certainly seems to sum up what is expected on many newspapers.

In the past few weeks, by coincidence, some of the doughtiest veterans of dance journalism have moved from their newspapers. John Percival ceases to be *The Times*' chief dance critic after 30 years. Mary Clarke has left the *Guardian*, and Edward Thorpe the *London Evening Standard*. All belong to an immensely influential generation of critics that engaged in passionate debate about the direction and standards of their cherished art form.

But like Harold Hobson and Kenneth Tynan in theatre, or Peter Heyworth and William Mann in music, they could do so from the security of a newspaper tradition that had not changed for centuries, and was not especially competitive. That kind of security was also something upon which Frank Rich could rely during his long and ferocious reign as *The New*



Will the new generation of dance critics have the clout of their predecessors?

York Times's drama critic; hence his enormous power.

The new generation has no such security, either of tenure or tradition. Before they can engage in polemics of the "what is art?" or "whether the Royal Ballet" variety, they must first win back the confidence of their own editors. They must prove that their specialist knowledge has a place in this wicked old world of print journalism. If I did not believe that it did, I would

not be doing the job that I do. More than that, I think that newspapers which downgrade their critics lose something fundamental: editorial authority. In the arts world, the critic gives the newspaper its clout and its voice. Renounce them and you move that bit closer towards insulating the intelligence of your readers. But then, I would say that, wouldn't I?

Debra Crane starts this week as *The Times*' dance critic.

Is the hard sell on the way out?

ONCE IT would have been unthinkable. This week one of Britain's biggest insurance companies is all but abolishing commission in a key part of its sales operations. Alan Mitchell writes. Managers of self-employed sales agents at Legal & General will not necessarily be paid more if they sell more — the emphasis will be on compliance with regulatory requirements. Incentives will be linked to ability to comply with industry regulations, record-keeping and speed of reaction to inquiries.

L&G is not the first or only company to start downplaying incentives for reps. Since allegations of mis-selling of financial products and regulator-imposed fines, reform of the attitudes and practices of sales forces has become a central part of the approach of many companies.

Even without the scandals, selling in the UK had begun a mini-revolution. The time when an irrepressible confidence plus friendly persuasion were the way to earn a fortune in sales is fast fading. Selling is becoming a profession, as the forthcoming British European Sales and Marketing Awards recognise. Sarah Fry, who organises the Institute of Sales and Marketing Management (ISMM) training courses, says: "The days of brash hard sell have disappeared."

Key to the mini-revolution in selling are competitive pressures that are forcing companies to look for smaller but more effective sales forces. Improvements being sought include attempts to improve sales productivity through the use of new technology such as laptop computers and telephone selling. And in saturated markets, keeping existing customers loyal is usually cheaper than continually luring new ones.

The transformation of selling will be recognised in the British European Sales and Marketing Awards. Sponsors include *The Times*, the Laurentian Group and TACK. Winners will be announced at the forthcoming ISMM Successful Selling Conference.

Sci-fi gives star ratings

BBC2's HEAVY reliance on both science fiction and television archives gave it the edge over its main rival, Channel 4, in the week beginning September 26. Alexandra Freeman writes.

The cult American sci-fi detective series, *The X-Files*, tops the BBC2 chart with 4.5 million viewers. It was closely followed by a British-produced programme in the same genre, *Red Dwarf*, which attracted a creditable

4.3 million viewers for the repeat showing of its sixth series. *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, the follow-up to Gene Roddenberry's legendary series about the Starship Enterprise, ranks seventh with 3.5 million viewers.

With the new look *University Challenge* and re-runs of two golden oldies from the 1970s, Thames Television's historical 26-parter, *The World at War*, and the comedy drama, *Randall*

and *Hopkirk (Deceased)* in its top ten, BBC2 sometimes seems more interested in nostalgia than innovation.

Channel 4's bold two-part drama of sexual abuse suffered by children at an orphanage, *The Boys of St Vincent*, attracted 2.8 million viewers and ranked third after the station's two staple programmes, the letters and numbers quiz, *Countdown*, and the Merseyside soap, *Brookside*.

September 26 to October 2, 1994

BBC2	Day	Time	Producer	Genre	Audience millions
1. <i>The X-Files</i>	Mon	21.30	20th Century Fox	Drama Series	4.5
2. <i>Red Dwarf</i>	Mon	21.01	Grant Tinker	Comedy	4.3
3. <i>Top Gear</i>	Tue	20.30	BBC Radio 4	Lifestyle	4.1
4. <i>Rob C. Nesbitt</i>	Mon	21.00	BBC Scotland	Comedy	4.0
5. <i>Colin Firth</i>	Sun	22.34	Orion	TV Film	4.0
6. <i>Lefty Error</i>	Tue	21.01	CNN Productions Group	Drama Series	3.5
7. <i>Star Trek</i>	Wed	19.00	Paramount Pictures Corp	Game Show	3.2
8. <i>University Challenge</i>	Wed	20.31	Granada Television	Game Show	2.8
9. <i>Randall and Hopkirk</i>	Wed	18.25	ITC Entertainment (UN)	Drama Series	2.8
10. <i>The World at War</i>	Mon	19.00	Thames Television	Documentary	2.5

Channel 4

1. *Countdown*

Under the BBC grill

It was like flogging a dead horse. I had reeled off the luvvies of Hampstead, the movers and shakers at Westminster and every British playwright named Alan. Well, who would you have interviewed, faced with the (fictional) parliamentary resignation of Glenda Jackson?

The man from the BBC was not satisfied. All these people would have nice things to say about Glenda Jackson, he wearily explained. Who would I go to to get the other point of view?

I offered Melvyn Bragg. Unimpressed stares. Oh, someone has just resigned from the Arts Council and got a column in *The Guardian*, I said simply. I can't remember his name but it was Anthony something. Everitt, I think.

They smiled. I breathed. This interview was having grave effects on my heart rate, and I was only 25.

Nearly a thousand people had applied for one of eight coveted BBC traineeships. The first obstacle — the written exam — had been hurdled fairly comfortably, give or take a few dodgy general knowledge questions. Now only a BBC interview board, truly the mother (or auntie) of all interviews, stood in my way.

Last week Samir Shah described how TV trainees were picked.

Among them was Anjana Ahuja...

The huge table did not make things easier. Five BBC bigwigs, three men and two women, sat across the trenches. Five pairs of eyes burrowing into my news-gathering soul. Ten beady pools of scepticism at my motives.

Next came the comparisons between BBC and ITN. What, asked John Morrison of *The Six O'Clock News*, was their main difference and which was better? Easy. Straight versus sensationalist, I replied... and sensationalist sells more.

Heavy silence. Samir Shah, head of political programmes in the BBC news and current affairs department, who moments before had been contemplating the grain of the table, looked up to engage me in the first battle of a war of nerves.

ITN has higher ratings, I

ventured, remembering the brouhaha over *News at Ten*. Mr Shah leant forward. No it doesn't, he said quietly. Yes it does, I said even more quietly. He nodded sagely to a colleague. Deliberate false intelligence had nearly caught me out. What would the enemy do next?

More than I could have imagined. By the end of the 45 minutes I had been asked to put together a science programme; to devise original coverage of the rail strike (I opted for cycling making a comeback); to reveal my weaknesses ("stubbornness" and "bossiness" came in handy); and to sell an idea for a political documentary (a ripping biography of Michael Heseltine: "Tarzan — Man or Marry?").

So how do you think you have performed in this interview? I mumbled something and smiled. Then I made my excuses and left. It had been a long hot day and my thighs felt like sandpaper.

The next day they offered me a place. I opted instead to join a newspaper. But Samir Shah may well be right about the interview being a defining moment in a young journalist's career: I shall never forget mine.

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مكة امه لاصل

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

FOCUS ON CATERING: changes to the once-humble staff eaterie, below, and how one company makes millions out of food

Cooking up a new approach to the modern cafeteria

A radical reassessment of the approach to office catering is bringing cost savings that are helping to counter a rise in food prices. The rise is being led by a sharp increase in the price of coffee. This emerges from the latest *The Times/Procord* office costs index, a quarterly report, which shows an overall decline in office costs of 0.4 per cent in the third quarter.

A special study of catering costs shows that some companies make much better use of their catering space than others — an important factor because the primary hidden cost of catering is always the space occupied by kitchens, serving areas and the seated dining spaces. Adam Burstow, facilities cost consultant at Procord, says: "At one time, companies were accustomed to have kitchens and other areas

with extensive space, but it is possible to adopt a more efficient approach. Other benefits are also being considered, such as more customer choice and a more stimulating eating experience."

The typical cafeteria offers a choice of hot lunches, a salad bar and desserts. Most cafeterias also provide a breakfast service, either English or continental. Leaving aside space costs, the average cost of this service is £527 a person a year, of which the company typically funds £348, or two thirds, and the users contribute £179 a head.

The cost of an individual meal averages £4.10; on average, the user pays £1.39. Average take-up rate of such facilities is 51 per cent of all potential users in a building. Where company subsidy is at the low end of the scale at 25 per cent, the take-up rate is down to 27 per cent. At the top end, when all costs are met by the company, the take-up rate jumps to 84 per cent.

To investigate the often-overlooked cost involved in space use, the study established an average ratio of occupants to seats of 4:1, although some establishments achieved a 6:1 ratio. Taking the average space needed for a seat and a national space cost of around £25 per net square foot, it meant that space considerations added £219 a person a year to the cafeteria service bill. Space costs are 25 per cent of total catering costs.

One way of using this space effectively is to serve more people over a lunch period. The average is for two people to be served per seat each lunchtime, although some establishments manage only 1.6 persons. By using techniques such as staggered lunch breaks, some organisations succeed in reaching a turnover as high as 2.8.

Other services typically form part of a corporate catering contract. These include drink or snack vending, coffee and snacks services for meetings and providing refreshments for special corporate functions. Typical cost is £135 a user a

year. Vending machines for drinks once aroused suspicion among some companies because it meant workers might choose their own times for a break, but it is now realised they could be useful interaction points for staff, says Mr Burstow. "Sometimes even a chair or two will be provided by a vending machine to encourage this."

According to Barry Varcoe, the

survey also shows that communication costs declined by 1.1 per cent during the quarter. Further reductions are likely as more competition emerges, notably National Power, the power generator, whose Energy subsidiary has installed communication lines on power pylons.

Some companies have made savings by routing calls from Britain to the Continent via America to take advantage of international market's pricing structure.

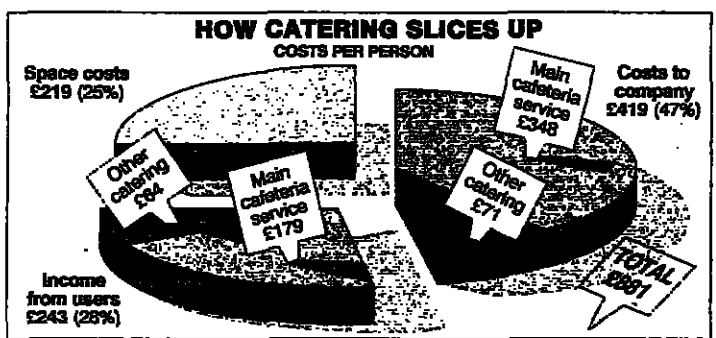
An upward pressure on office costs, the survey shows, is a need for the protection of a company's knowledge, which is usually carried and stored by computer.

DEREK HARRIS

● *The Times/Procord Index does not include location-dependent elements such as rent, rates, service charges, insurance and depreciation. Nor does it cover costs of small project work, furniture, information technology installations and VAT. The Index is based on information from 100 big office properties around Britain.*

Plastic swipe cards for use at food counters could be the taste of the future

consultancy development manager at Procord, it is only one aspect of the changes in business practice that are affecting demands on catering. Catering not only satisfies hunger but plays a role in communication between people in a relaxing environment. Mr Burstow also foresees greater use of franchising to bring in variations in food themes and even the emergence of food boutiques and malls. Cashless cafeterias — those in which transactions are carried out



Catering for everyone: Andrew Nelson, left, and Chris Hind

The ingredients for success

Nelson Hind, a catering company, based in Rugby, Warwickshire, has proved that it is possible to grow rapidly in a sector that is dominated by a few big players. Chris Hind and Andrew Nelson founded Nelson Hind in 1989 after gaining experience in management at Sutcliffe, one of the three major caterers alongside Gardner Merchant and Compass.

However, as Mr Hind says: "We could not approach Sutcliffe clients because of our contracts, so we set up with no customers. We just started telephoning around and sending out letters. We were approached by Royal Insurance and Rolls-Royce to do consultancy work, which gave us a quick injection of cash."

The three-person business began in an attic above a doctor's surgery to keep down overheads. Despite the recession, Nelson Hind has grown to employ 750 people with an annual turnover of £10 million. Most clients are in private healthcare, independent schools, industry and commerce. Many have been won from bigger catering companies. Gains over the past few months have included Bell Language Schools and Bass, the brewer, at Burton-on-Trent.

Mr Hind says: "We do not base our success on the number of clients we service but rather on the

quality of that service. We pay on average 20 per cent higher rates for all catering managers and their staff, but gain efficiency of labour by employing higher skilled personnel. It is important to get the right people working for you. We take a lot of time and trouble in selecting people. We allow our catering managers the freedom to purchase locally so that clients and customers receive the freshest produce at the best possible prices."

An example is the £500,000 purchasing contract awarded by CCHA Extra Care, a Coventry charity specialising in nursing homes and sheltered housing. It is funded by local health authorities and supported by donations. Mr Hind estimates it is saving the charity up to £47,000 a year by rationalising the purchasing operation.

Phil Tyas, area sales manager, says: "Extra Care is an unusual client in that its purchasing needs are very different from our industrial clients. There are many dietary requirements such as diabetic foods, lactose-free products and halal meats. On top of that, whereas most of our units have regular hours, the Extra Care units are open around the clock so we will be offering a 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week service."

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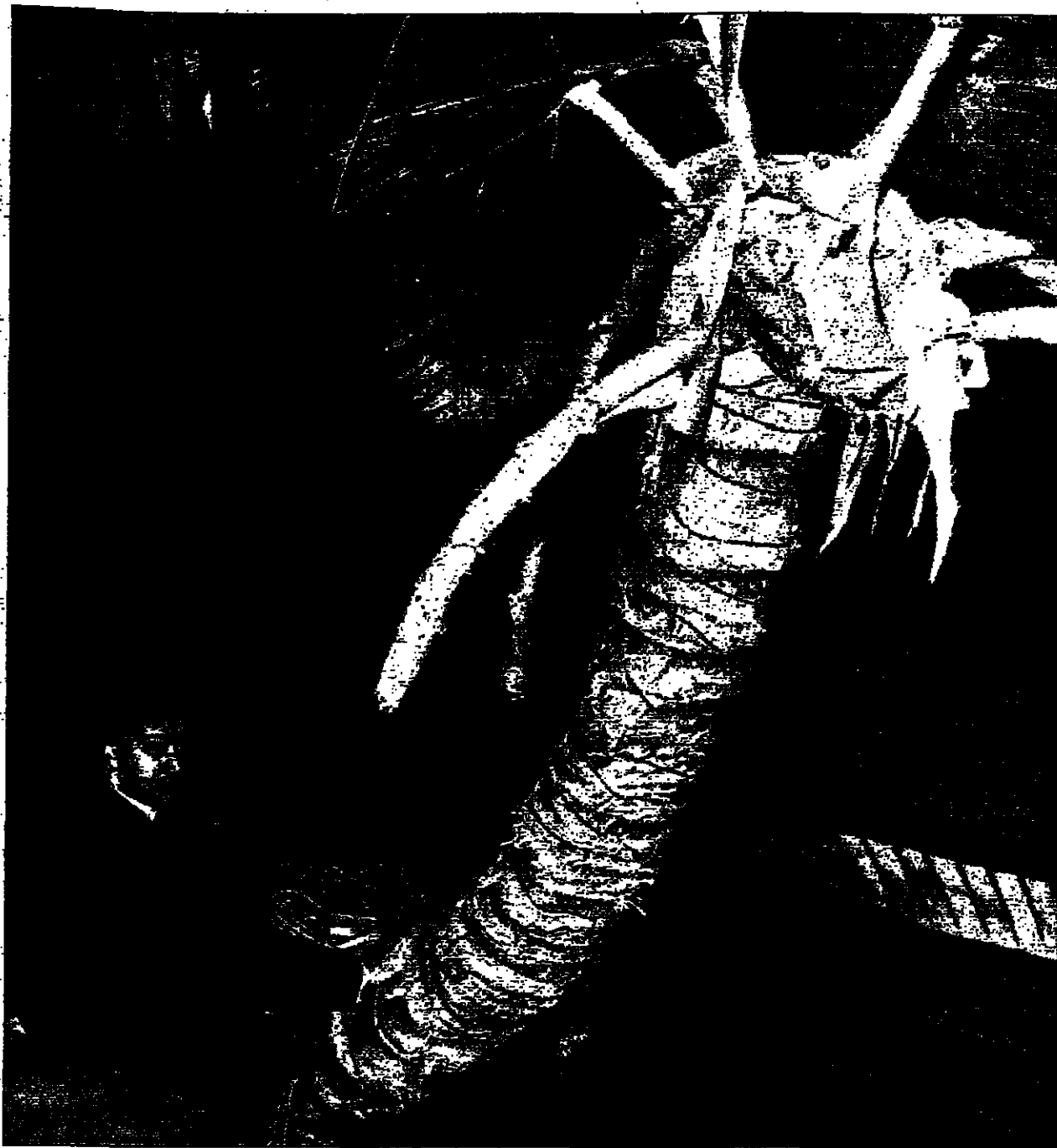
Leisure catering is focusing on pleasure with themed food to match, reports Derek Harris

A Caribbean supper, offering curried goat, spiced chicken, hard dough bread and coconut-dusted rice and peas, fits seamlessly alongside a performance of the American musical *Once on this Island*, at London's Royalty Theatre — currently called Island Theatre — to fit the Caribbean theme. This is the most developed form yet of themed catering in the West End theatre, according to Gardner Merchant, one of the UK's biggest caterers, which has helped to develop the concept.

It is one of the latest aspects of leisure events catering, which ranges from football matches and horse race meetings to fixed attractions such as zoos and historic buildings, which is now a target area of expansion for an increasing number of facilities management companies.

Leisure catering as a sector is worth about £200 million in sales annually. Four operators account for about half of the market, while the rest number several thousand much smaller concerns. As well as Gardner Merchant, the management buyout from Forte, there is Compass, whose Letheby & Christopher has leisure contracts going back to the turn of the century. In their wake is National Leisure Catering, which has Wembley Stadium on its books, and Payne & Gunter, whose catering contracts include Twickenham rugby ground and London livery halls.

Gardner Merchant's extensive spread of leisure catering interests includes servicing ten Stoll Moss theatres in the capital's West End. Bill Toner, managing director for London catering, made the first foray into themed eating with a café adjacent to the *Miss Saigon* show. It was fitted out to



Bill Toner, divisional director of Gardner Merchant, on the set of *Once on this Island* at the Royalty Theatre

provide an appropriate atmosphere and the menu offered Asian dishes. Then came the move which Mr Toner regards as the one which broke new ground. Imagination, a themes designer, was brought in by Stoll Moss to help to plan an "experience evening" built around a successful American musical with an all-black cast

set on a Caribbean island. Not only was the show projected well into the audience, but the auditorium and the theatre's rooms and corridors were all fitted out to follow the Caribbean theme which ventured into street activity, complete with traders.

At the show's end, the Caribbean supper can be eaten in a themed restaurant,

whose late opening hours for members means it turns into a nightclub after everybody has eaten. The meal and nightclub option is £10 a head.

After only a few weeks the initiative is doing "very well". Mr Toner says: "This could well be the way things will develop in the theatre for certain types of show." There are plans for *Oliver*, due to

open at the Palladium in December, to have a themed eating area offering London East End food.

Gardner Merchant is continuing to increase its penetration of the leisure and tourist market through three other subsidiaries. Town & Country Catering has key contracts at events such as Wimbledon, Henley and the Chelsea Flow-

er Show. Ring & Brymer deals with events such as the Ryder Cup, Royal Ascot and the Hennessy Gold Cup.

A more recent creation is Town & Country Leisure, formed to meet the needs of leisure-facility operators who want to concentrate on core activities. Caterers taking a capital stake in a leisure project are becoming more common. For instance, Town & Country Leisure is funding the construction of a coffee bar, restaurant and function room at Hampton Court Palace. Visitor research persuaded Town & Country to follow a "quintessentially English" theme in its palace catering.

At the Royal Armouries in Leeds, Town & Country acts as a full facilities manager covering not only catering but cleaning, security, ticket sales, maintenance and feeding the livestock.

More football clubs are turning to contract caterers because their market seems to be developing on the American pattern, where eating and drinking is part of the experience, especially at high-volume, fast-food style outlets. Neil Goulden, managing director of Letheby & Christopher, says: "The clubs see this not only as a source of additional revenue, but as a way of increasing customer satisfaction and thus ensuring repeat visits. Spending per head is well above inflation."

Newcomers to the leisure sector will find some specialised operations difficult to penetrate. Mr Goulden believes. At Ascot racecourse, where Letheby & Christopher has been catering since 1902, the throughput on the course's 23 operational days a year is huge, at 7,500 restaurant meals a day.

Pall Mall Services, which has been involved at Crystal Palace Sports Centre, has just taken on a 10-year, full-services contract including catering, for the local authority's new stadium and sports facility at Shifields, Northampton.

It is the new home of The Cobblers, the local third division football team. Pall Mall sees centres of this kind as a burgeoning market.

Hand-delivered lunches fill a gap

Tray chic is a smart idea

Quality work lunches with a flavour of France delivered on trays have been receiving a corporate welcome in London. They have been marketed for three years in the capital by Tray Gourmet, the creation of Nicolas Dreyfus who picked up the idea from a market development in his native France.

Mr Dreyfus, who has been in the food industry for many years in both France and America, as well as 17 years in Britain, said: "The idea of high-quality food lunches being delivered to offices for meetings and entertaining has really taken off in France. London seemed ripe for a similar operation although for different reasons. Many City firms have been closing down in-house catering, or at least reviewing the cost effectiveness of these operations. Moreover, long expense-account lunches seem to be a thing of the past."

The Dreyfus service spans breakfast, lunch, cocktail snacks and dinner. Catering for a business group can mean up to 100 trays being delivered promptly. Tray Gourmet collects the trays later.

There are two main menus at £9.50 and £15 which does not include

wine. A starter could be *Salade de la reine pedauq* (lettuce heart, orange and crème fraîche), a main-course chicken in Roquefort sauce, or best end of lamb in a garlic crust, and puddings, as well as cheese, are culled from around Europe. Sandwiches come as American, French, Italian and English. It is cold cuisine although hot soup and coffee can be provided in vacuum flasks.

The heart of the Dreyfus operation is in kitchens at Battersea, where the meals are prepared freshly each day. He employs a chef and other help depending on need. His wife Sonia also gets involved in the kitchen in preparation and presentation of food. Mr Dreyfus says: "I sometimes deliver myself. The emphasis is on personal service."

He added: "It was hard going during the recession, but we have managed to double trade each year. There should be more growth next year." In some weeks 1,000 or more deliveries are made. He says: "We are now in profit. But expansion will probably mean franchising because it would be necessary to set up additional operations to serve a particular area."

DEREK HARRIS



Nicolas Dreyfus: long lunches are in the past

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Fog still swirls around Tupe

The revised EC directive on personnel transfers has not cleared the confusion

An attempt by the European Commission to clear up confusion over the application of the Tupe rules, which govern the transfer of personnel involved in outsourcing contracts, has not achieved the clarification companies have been seeking.

John Hall, director-general of the Business Services Association and a leading critic of the existing rules, says: "The Commission has switched the wording around, but there is nothing new in the revised directive."

The Confederation of British Industry says the new text is "a step in the right direction but it is in dire need of clarification". The bone of contention is the European Union's Acquired Rights Directive, designed to protect workers in the event of a takeover. Britain's transfer of undertakings (protection of employment) regulations, known as Tupe, are based on the directive.

Because of uncertainty in the wording of the directive, courts in Britain and on the Continent have held that the regulations apply to contracting-out parts of business and public-sector work, even when only there is one person involved. A revised European directive is now being considered by the European Parliament. It will require the approval of the Council of Ministers, who may amend it or reject it without referral back to the Commission.

Mr Hall says: "Its wording is so uncertain that its scope could only be properly determined after litigation in the European Courts. We are advising our members even more emphatically than before that they cannot risk any bidding for contracts without taking Tupe into account."

The British Government has been at the forefront in fighting for change, arguing that a distinction should be made between transferring an entire undertaking and contracting out only part of a business.

The Government's contracting out of central and local government functions will produce lower cost savings if all existing workers have to be transferred on their existing terms of employment. Germany, which holds the EC presidency until the end of the year, has also expressed reservations.

In the meantime, companies that took over services believing that Tupe would not apply are facing retrospective claims for unfair dismissal. An independent tribunal in Northern Ireland has approved the addition of a contractor as defendant in an action two years after the case was first brought against a health board.

Another company has been advised by leading counsel that if it won a contract that was being tendered again in similar circumstances, it could still be liable for an unfair dismissal claim resulting from the earlier contracting out, even if it was not a party to the original tendering. Mr Hall says: "Clearly, contractors accept that when they bid today they must take account of Tupe regulations and accept the consequences if they fail to apply them properly. These cases, however, are of a different nature. It is unreasonable to expect a contractor alone to meet substantial costs relating to a competitive tendering exercise taking place some years earlier when none of the parties assumed that Tupe would apply."

RODNEY HOBSON

A takeover can mean retraining and new opportunities. Derek Harris reports



Alwyn Welch, the divisional managing director of Hoskyns Industry: a skills shortage is likely to worsen, he believes

New boss, new career

The problem with rapid change in an industry is fear of the unknown. It is like working in a company that has been acquired. People are uncertain: they expect to see jobs disappear. They need a bit of cuddling and caring to take them through the change process.

Alwyn Welch, the divisional managing director of Hoskyns Industry, is discussing the current state of information technology (IT) as growth opportunities proliferate amid rapid change. Hoskyns Industry accounts for about a third of the turnover of Hoskyns Group which is one of Britain's largest computer service companies.

IT may be the biggest single slice of the facilities management market with immense scope for expansion but change inherent in this situation poses human problems as well as opportunities, he says.

Mr Welch started out as an electronics engineer with the former Plessey electronics company (later taken over in the General Electric Company-Siemens deal) and eventually headed the internal

software operations within the group. Plessey then acquired Hoskyns and outsourced its IT operations to its new specialist subsidiary, involving the move of 300 people, including Mr Welch. Having started on the lower rungs

of the corporate ladder perhaps helps him understand the effects of the sort of rapid change which is being seen in IT.

"At first I thought I would give Hoskyns six months," Mr Welch says. Six senior people including himself all moved advantageously to other roles in periods varying from six months to two years. Subsequently Hoskyns has become part of France's Cap Gemini Sogeti.

Europe's largest computer services company. This widens career prospects for the individual even more, Mr Welch says. Hoskyns alone is a fast broadening world for the IT specialist.

There are 3,500 on the staff and numbers are growing. Usually when securing outsourcing contracts for IT operations Hoskyns takes over the IT staff in the company which is contracting out.

Especially tricky are situations being met in the public sector where in-house teams bid for operations selected only to be taken on to the staff of a successful private-sector bidder. Mr Welch says: "It demands more care and time but in our experience it can be sorted out, with the newcomers finishing up sanguine about what they are doing and their prospects."

He says: "We are retaining people at a huge rate coming in on outsourcing deals. They may be familiar only with old technology like mainframes, so about 400 people a year are having intensive retraining. On our balance sheet it

is people who are the assets. That is the difference between an IT service company and an in-house department. The lesson is to look after key assets in your business."

The lesson is that you look after the key assets in your business

Need a desk? Check in at reception

Hotel-style office systems can cut costs

The cost of redesigning offices to house new bosses and accommodate new departments can be almost eliminated as an overhead if there is sufficient investment in the right space planning, a modular furniture system and the latest easy-change cabling systems, says a new survey.

One big London consultancy, for example, has removed desk ownership and runs a hotel-style booking system to allocate desk space on an as-required basis. Derek Harris writes. By these means 164 staff are supported by only 52 workplaces.

Replanning office space and costing out personnel relocation moves within offices is known in the business as "office churn". The AT&T Report on Office Churn, one of the few surveys to look at office churn rates and costs, prompted approaches to 300 organisations. Only 21 per cent turned out formally to monitor their churn rates, or could estimate the costs involved in office churn. For the rest it was all a closed book.

Churn is the result of changes in a company's organisational structure made because of changes in customers' needs. Typically, when new problems arise a team is assembled to deal with them which in turn, to give the new team a home, usually means adapting office space, furniture, partitions and probably telephones and electronic equipment too.

The study found that the more flexibly designed a building — as with structured cabling systems that make the adaptation of electronic systems, like workstations, cheaper — the more churn there will be. Usually that is a measure of efficiency — although there can be "bad churn" occasioned by individual ranking changes which lead to demands to expand offices that may then upset a series of office configurations. Low churn in an old building with elderly systems probably means a hidden inefficiency bill is accumulating.

The average overall cost of moving individuals varied considerably by sector. Among businesses which measured churn costs a financial sector move was put at £708, a public sector one at £500, medical at £313, manufacturing at £609, service industries at £458 and technology at £656 per employee.

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How Lille managed to
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MUSIC page 39

The wide world of
Baroque heads for
London, courtesy of
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ARTS

Much ado about nothing much

**Benedict Nightingale says BBC2's meandering
Bard on the Box season is failing in its grandiose
task of giving Shakespeare back to the groundlings**

As the opening segment of BBC2's *Bard on the Box* season informed us on Sunday, the first great celebration of Saint William Shakespeare occurred in Stratford in 1769. The programme did not, however, evoke the full folly of an occasion in which cannons roared, fireworks exploded, horses raced, a 32lb turtle was eaten, and a roundabout collapsed as the revellers applauded the actor David Garrick, who had delivered a historic panegyric in the gloves Shakespeare himself was supposed to have worn. Even the dramatist's apocryphal feats as a poacher were recalled. "The Will of all Wills was a Warwickshire Will," the local militia sang. "The thief of all thieves was a Warwickshire thief."

Is *Bard on the Box*, purportedly "the most comprehensive Shakespeare season ever seen on television", a bit like Garrick's two-day jubilee — only less flamboyant, less fun and, since it meanders on for several weeks, more scattered? When you hear Howard Keel sing "Kiss Me Kate", or David Bellamy burble on about Elizabethan gardens, or Eartha Kitt and Jimmy Knapp read Shakespearean snippets, you may begin to wonder.

When Robert Robinson launched his quest on Sunday for the Bardbrain of Britain ("How many times does the phrase 'My liege' crop up in the plays?"), I asked myself a similar question: was the season itself a display of the obsequious Bardophilia and mindless Bardophagy that had been condemned the same night in *The Inevitable Rise of William Shakespeare*?

The answer already promises to be mixed. The season variously looks like being informative, silly, sophisticated, shallow, provocative and really rather pointless.

The most obvious objection is that it includes only one new production of a play by the man himself, a *Measure for Measure* with an alpha-minus cast. A subtler one is that there is a contradiction between lamenting Shakespeare's failure to reach today's groundlings, as the season's

producers persistently do, and presenting a clutch of programmes about him on BBC2.

The 15-odd millions who watch *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street* are hardly likely to have seen Adrian Noble's excellent workshop on *Measure for Measure* on Monday. Had they accidentally switched it on, they might reasonably have concluded that they had blundered into an *Arena* or *South Bank Show*, for it would have appeared to the same smallish audience and might as well have been in the identical slot.

Bard on the Box is like those BBC2 theme-park evenings

It is mostly aimed at the very cognoscenti from whom it wishes to rescue Shakespeare

devoted to football or meteorology, but this time it is mostly aimed at the very cognoscenti from whom it wishes to rescue Shakespeare.

Yet that is not valiant. At least the season lets the curious eavesdrop on arguments that still rattle the feathers of the culture vultures. That is not quite justification enough for next Sunday's *Battle of Wills*, which asks whether Shakespeare was really Bacon, Oxford, Marlow, or Elizabeth I in a doublet.

The answer to these fanfuries is simple. If it is impossible to believe that an imperfectly educated provincial glover's son wrote the plays, why did Bacon or Oxford choose so preposterous a surrogate, and how did the bumpkin get away with the deception?

But I have seen *Shakespeare on the Estate*, which follows on October 27, and did not find that so frivolous. This is the season's most explicit attempt to decide whether Shakespeare can again have genuinely popular appeal. As often with such endeavours, it

has its exasperating aspects. Michael Bogdanov, who has devoted his directing career to brightening and sometimes sharpening up the classics, goes to a low-income, high-crime estate in Birmingham, and begins by bleating ingratiatingly on about how Shakespeare has been hijacked by an élite and used to support the class system. But the young blacks he is addressing simply tell him to shut up and, along with other residents, perform bits of the plays.

A bulky, lager-drinking youth, at first glimpse a founder-member of John Major's job culture, gives a nice, surly account of Caliban's complaint to Prospero. An angry young black man brings an effortless conviction to Shylock's ethnic outrage, and an older one does more than any white Capulet I have seen to explain how Juliet is terrified into agreeing to marry Paris. More predictably, the gang-fights in *Romeo and Juliet* come to life, although this time with the help of some updating ("Romeo, you're a wanker") of the language.

This may not prove a lot. But it suggests it is possible to convince people who found Shakespeare boring or intimidating at school that his characters and situations are more vital than they imagine. Although the season's opening programme implied so, by the crude ruse of showing a bugged John Patten ranting at a Tory conference, this does not mean the Bard should be excluded from the national curriculum. But it might help if he was more often moved from the desk to the floor.

Sadly, though, many theatre-in-education teams have fallen victim to financial cuts, and with them has gone the best opportunity of putting our children into the skins of Iago, Portia or Bolingbroke.



to recognise that the conventional Shakespeare production has become the critical one: the anti-war *Henry V*, the racially sensitive *Merchant of Venice*, the harsh *Lear*, the *Shrew* with feminist overtones, the harsh *Lear*, the *Hamlet* with the unsweet prince. The BBC might have demonstrated this itself, by offering the kind of revivals we have come to expect from the Royal Shakespeare Company at its more subversive. But

apart from David Thacker's production of *Measure for Measure*, all we see of Shakespeare's work are some films — Olivier's bellicose *Henry V* among them — and a few 30-minute cartoons, which do to the plays what *Classics Illustrated* did to Dickens. What are we to make of so blatant an omission?

Part of me applauds the producers' discretion, for no one has yet discovered how to

adapt big, poetic plays for a crabbed medium with an in-built bias towards naturalism. Fifteen years ago the BBC launched its *Bardathon*, a 26-mile canter through all of Shakespeare's work, and found itself justifiably attacked for being dated and dull. Eventually Jonathan Miller took over the project, and there was less whooping up and down cardboard stairs in antique hose. But I recently

saw several of the plays, and was gripped only by *Lea*; and then mainly because of Michael Horden's wonderfully querulous king. But another side of me thinks it cowardly and perverse of the BBC to hype a *Bard on the Box* so lacking in well, Bard on the box. It is all very well emphasising Shakespeare's relevance and claiming that his appeal is wider than we assume. But it might

be better to dare some alpha-plus actors to come into the studio and prove the point.

The chances of a production that would excite both Hampstead and inner-city Birmingham are remote — but should true believers not be trying, failing, and trying again? Without that, the best-meant Shakespeare extravaganza may itself be accused of suffering from the disease it diagnoses.

THEATRE: Kate Bassett finds the choicest production at the Dublin Festival hidden away from the bright lights

Against all the odds, the most outstanding piece of Irish drama I caught at this year's Festival in Dublin's theatrically famed city did not come from an established quarter at all.

It was not *The Mai* at the Abbey's Peacock Theatre. Marina Carr's vision of Irish women extending back into mythology. Although apparently overlaying examples of female passion, strength and despair, it does not actually pluck the heartstrings. There are some gutsy individual performances, including Joan O'Hara's raunchy cackling crone, Grandma Franchin. However, the whole blend of the modern with more than a dab of the Celtic twilight and a splash of Scandinavian symbolism-drenched domesticity is emotionally thin. Four generations of women are gathered together but only one of them, unloved by her cellist husband, actively goes anywhere: down to the lake to end it all. We see her, through a cyclorama, apparently bowing herself to death underwater. Wishy-washy.

Nor was the theatrical event of the week *The Risen People*, Jim Plunkett's local epic depicting the gruelling 1913 labour lockout, on at the splendid old Gaiety Theatre and directed by Jim (*My Left Foot*) Sheridan and his brother Peter (whose previous staging played to packed houses in London's Saxe of Ireland Festival in 1993).

This production frames Brechtian austerity — poor folk on a bare stage — within operatic-scale receding procession arches, their angles askew. These serve as giant projection screens for a multitude of black and white photographs: a sham senement, a crowd clashing with police, a grand scheme but, again, the production rarely has genuine kick.

True lines amid the artifice



Cathy Belton and Tom Murphy sit up while lying down in a scene from the experimental and inspired *True Lines*

The occasional fierce-spirited folk song cuts to the quick. But the Sheridans are heavy-handed, intercutting Plunkett's drama of class conflict and a consequently doomed love-match with a fictional 1913 performance of *Aida*, corpulent Ancient Egyptians and slave girls apparently docking on the Liffey.

Although trade unionism is not dead, Plunkett's 1950s drama feels periodically dated. There are vibrant performances from young actors: David Wilmut as Pat, alternately threatening and amusingly flinching; and Pat Kneevane-camping up a Catholic school prefect. Donal Donnelly and Sean Lawlor are a nicely spiky pair of comic tramps. But Jer O'Leary's agitator Jim Larkin gives the

impression of being fossilised and Tom Hickey is a stiff industrialist.

Hickey, in spite of his track record at the Abbey and the Gate, definitely did not make my day at the Project Arts Centre, affecting the manner of an irredeemably atheistic, sexually suspect former priest. Presumably meant to be withering, wry and morally provocative, *The Kiss* — a monologue by Michael Una Pooka Harding — is unbelievably entertaining.

Hangdog Hickey sits immobile for the full 45 minutes, staring gloomily ahead. As a late-night studio short, *The Kiss* should be a modest affair. Unfortunately Hickey, under Harding's direction, worships every blessed word: as if a holy father confessing to lust

over a girl's buttocks is a revelation. An unexplained pianist interrupts the ranting here and there. Commendations to the piano for remaining upright.

Hidden Charges is far better, presented in the adjacent in-the-round auditorium by Rough Magic, which is turning out impressively polished work in its tenth year. Arthur Riordan has written a sitcom with some underlying seriousness about a couple of twentysomethings in two minds about emotional commitment. Carol is not decided about the attractions of sharing personal space with Mark when her Aunt Kitty, who owns the property, arrives to stay in the spare room "for a few days". Kathy Strachan's slice-of-life lounge is subtly

claustrophobic, with a suspended section of penitence ceiling keeping a lid on a situation that might blow its top (although, disappointingly, it never categorically does).

As always in an intimate theatre no flicker of awkwardness escapes detection. There is much beautifully detailed acting here, though. Darragh Kelly's pudgily cute (perhaps a bit too cute) Mark, sent to Coventry for putting his foot in it with Carol's friends, milks a joke rather deliciously, fidgeting mutely on the sofa, then tiptoeing to the kitchen through a maliciously squeaking door. Soon Aunt Kitty (Bernie Downes) is blasting between rooms in a cloud of cheap perfume talking nineteen to the dozen. Wisely for a play about intrusions and,

ultimately, living alone, director Lynne Parker pays amusing attention to the business of exits and entrances.

This is a neatly structured piece, but it lapses into the formulaic. Sexual currents appear to be switched on for the convenience of a plot twist. Kitty and Mark suddenly cheating on Carol seems incredible. Riordan ultimately skirts the serious, stopping his play just as the real pain begins.

Nonetheless, *Hidden Charges* looks at sexual morality in contemporary Ireland, women's assertive independence or vulnerability, men's devotion or infidelity, and the views of different generations.

But the best show I saw was in the small City Arts Centre on George's Quay, presented by actors whose company, Bickerstaffe, is scarcely two years old. *True Lines* is a stylistically experimental piece about lonely souls scattered across America, Australia and Europe who, en route, inform us about everything from the Internet to Aboriginal songlines. It sounds potentially atrocious. It is actually inspired. Finely performed and creatively directed by John Crowley, it constantly saves itself from pretension with an unusually sharp, funny script.

This is a disturbing, thought-provoking piece about communication and alienation that manages to be wildly cranky by the simplest of means. The floor becomes the wall as a conversation is conducted on chairs laid horizontal. A suicidal man perfunctorily carries a rigid corpse around under his arm. A woman takes off, holding two pin-beam torches, stretched in flight on another's shoulders like an angel with the wing-lights of a jumbo jet.

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Fast-track flourish of French fantasy

Marcus Binney admires the massive development above and around Lille's new railway station — the work of some of Europe's boldest architects

In just five years, the ailing French industrial city of Lille has trumped every aspiring town in England. Here, ready for the opening of the Channel Tunnel, is a spectacular £620 million development centred on an airy and elegant new TGV railway station. It shows exactly what London might have done with King's Cross or indeed Docklands. The Government had the gumption to start with a proper infrastructure of road and rail. There is a slick new shopping centre, abundant modern offices, student housing, a new hotel with three-star style and two-star prices, and a giant conference and exhibition centre known as the Grand Palais, which also includes a rock concert hall seating 6,000.

Rem Koolhaas, the Dutch architect who has acted as master planner, says: "I'm not French, so I can tell you it's impressive to see how, once a decision is taken in France, everything is mobilised to put it into effect. The idea is simple: to modernise the city without destroying it. Nothing historic has been demolished to make way for the development."

Lille was fortunate in having a large military area just outside the former city walls where, by ancient edict, no structure could be erected unless it could be dismantled within 24 hours. The one permanent building on the site, a modest

brick barracks, has been adapted as the headquarters of Eurallille.

Eurallille is more than a British-style development corporation, aimed at attracting commercial investment to an urban wasteland. It is a part-public, part-privately funded entity empowered to carry out development itself. Its president is the former French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, and its director general, Jean-Paul Bailetto. Koolhaas explains how they guarded against undue commercial or provincial pressures by setting up a "cercle de qualité", a review group of 24 which met every month to discuss each project. On it were architects, critics and top civil servants. "This gave us an open door to every government ministry," Koolhaas says.

Bailetto has a three-point formula for success. "First, no pretensions to generalities, only the specific. Second, a compelling driving force, in this case the looming completion of the Channel Tunnel that places Lille at the junction of all trains approaching the tunnel. Third, to create a dynamic from hell: night-

mare deadlines which tie your team together like prisoners in a chain gang."

When it came to choosing architects for individual buildings, Koolhaas adopted what he calls counter-type casting. "Christian de Portzamparc had only designed major cultural buildings, so we set him to work on an office block. Jean Nouvel has a reputation for expensive buildings, so we gave him the challenge of building a vast shopping centre at a bargain price."

Lille, he says, has to build more cheaply than Paris. The Grand Palais, designed by Koolhaas's own Office for Metropolitan Redevelopment, is the prime example of this. Dutch architects are winning a name as the world leaders in providing large, stylish volumes of space at unbelievable prices. The trick is to use materials in an avant-garde way.

The base of the building, looking as if it were made of large blocks of specially carved stone, is in fact concrete cast in special moulds. The outward sloping walls are nothing more substantial than translucent

polyester made with a sprinkling of aluminium dust.

Inside, the bold floor-to-roof panelling consists of standard sheets of plywood overlaid with a beautifully patterned veneer. The large amphitheatre holds 1,500, but at the push of a button, half of these turn into "delegates' tables". The smart black balustrades are no more than standard steel floor grilles. Leaning walls, zig-zag gangways and seven colours of seats turn a concrete box into a piece of pop art.

The smaller conference hall has proved a little too adventurous. The plywood panelling, sloping at different angles on each wall, was making delegates feel seasick after 15 minutes in the room. Fortunately the effect can be cured by simply painting out the joints.

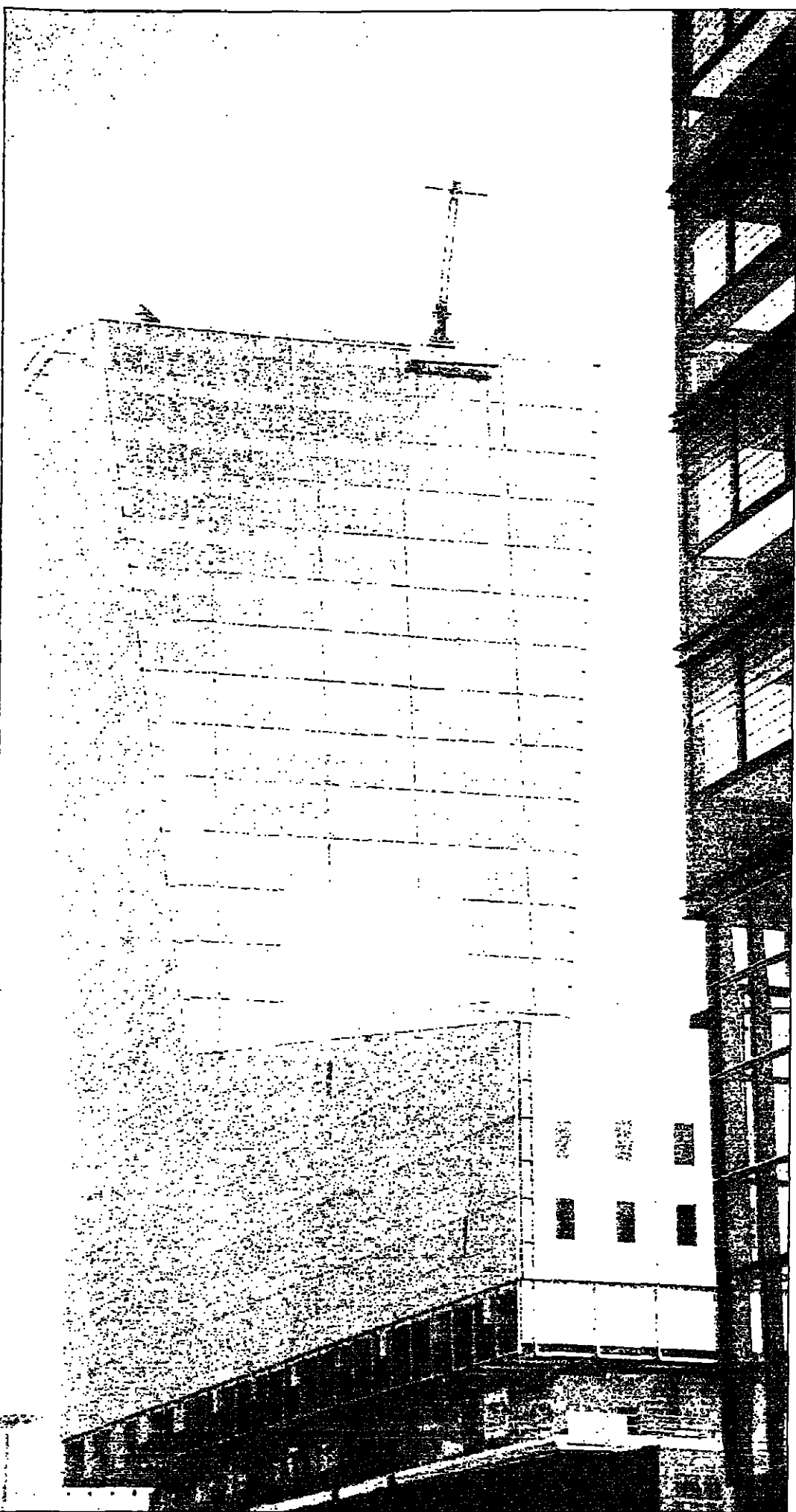
Nouvel's shopping centre, inside, is the equivalent of a Harley Davidson motorbike: all shiny metal surfaces and dazzling lights. A huge slab roof, angled at 12 degrees, slopes right across the site, supported on widely-spaced columns and floating free above the shops. This is the style of the slickest pop videos: metal surfaces reflecting light in rainbow colours.

Outside, Nouvel lines up utilitarian fire stairs to look like ocean-liner gangways. Windows are filled with mesmerising photographic blow-ups of moving wheels that change in colour as clouds scuttle across the sky.

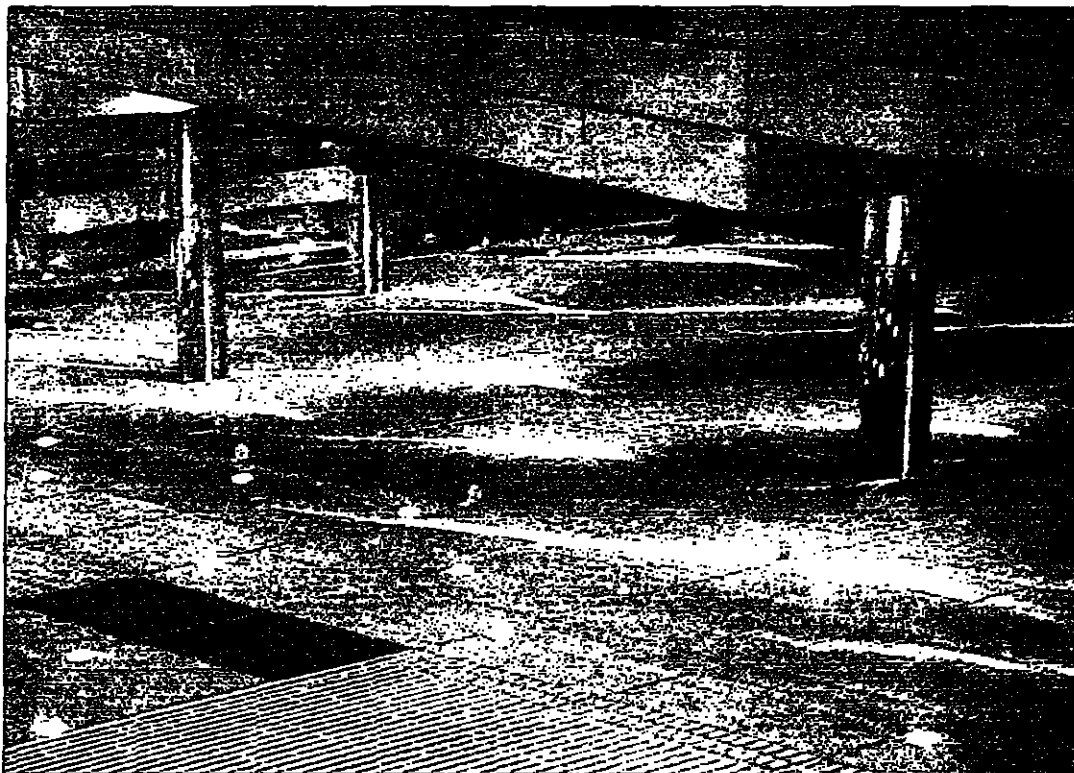
Not many people will grow to admire Portzamparc's ski-boot-shaped offices for Crédit Lyonnais. But the station beneath is another story. Marc Paindavoine, an engineer who worked on the design of the roof, says: "We wanted to create the effect of a flying carpet, floating free." The actual concept came from Peter Rice, the Irish engineer. He was given a free hand by the enlightened chief architect of French railways, Jean-Marie Duthilleul, to explore the steel and glass vocabulary of Victorian termini in a modern idiom.

Instead of the massive steel girders usually found in station roofs, Rice's arches are proportionately as thin as bicycle wheels, and the roof is held further aloft on thin posts. "The work is done by steel ties which are safer than arches of columns — like spokes of a wheel, they sag against buckling," says Paindavoine.

The architectural conjuring is completed by an elegant bridge with twin roadways held aloft on transverse arches as slender as the crescent of a new moon. Next to be completed is a substantial public park, to be landscaped by Gilles Clement, creator of the remarkable Parc André Citroën in Paris.



Christian de Portzamparc's "ski-boot" offices for Crédit Lyonnais, and (right) Jean Nouvel's shopping centre, "the equivalent of a Harley Davidson motorbike, all shiny surfaces and dazzling lights"



Little death for a big rebirth

This week Rambert Dance Company is relaunched with a little help from Jiri Kylian. John Percival reports

Visionaries are what we need in the arts. Jiri Kylian is quite sure of that point, and he should know, having used his own vision to win worldwide fame for the company he directs, Netherlands Dance Theatre. Now he is doing his bit to help Christopher Bruce revive Rambert Dance Company's fortunes; and visiting London to rehearse the dancers in his ballet *Petite Mort* (which premieres in Edinburgh this week) made Kylian recall the year he spent as a student at the Royal Ballet School.

"Jennie Lee was the Arts Minister, and I have moist eyes when I think of that woman. Anything seemed possible then; people were not worried over a plunge into the unknown. Now things don't look healthy any more — here, or with us in The Netherlands, or in America — all over. And if you don't give people opportunities as artists, it's like forbidding them to dream."

He is also worried about what he sees as a huge problem for 20th-century art: the "tremendous individualism" which has led many artists to "start talking in codes intelligible only to a group". In his own work, deliberate obscurity is definitely out: "Common denominators can be found and

combined in a piece without making huge concessions." But if ten people each see something different in one of his ballets, that is fine by him.

What of his own contribution to Rambert's relaunch? It is, Kylian says, "totally disreputable. I indulge myself with this beautiful music, the adagio from two piano concertos by Mozart, and I tie them together with some ridiculous dances in between. But Mozart's was also the time of people who thought in a new and independent way. Diderot, Rousseau, Sade: it was the period of the French Revolution. The 18th century taught us what disrespect means."

So the props he uses as images in the piece — empty crinolines and fencing foils — are drawn from the period but have a further resonance. "The title *Petite Mort* — Little Death — is a phrase used in those days for an orgasm," Kylian says. So the piece is very erotic not only in its duets but in the fencing movements too, and it can hardly be by chance that there is an ambiguous innuendo in his comment that "men always fiddle with tools and weapons; they need something to extend themselves with". Kylian explains: "I'm showing a very sterile beauty, the beauty of killing. In fact," Kylian jokes,



Jiri Kylian: visionary with a worldwide reputation

"It is a very fascistic piece!" He responded to Bruce's request to contribute to Rambert's new repertoire because Bruce is a friend as well as a colleague who has, in the past, made several works for NDT. Now, as Kylian knows, is a crucial time for Rambert. Although Bruce already has a good team of dancers working well together, getting the right repertoire is the key factor. There are new works to be made, others brought in from abroad, pieces to be revived from Rambert's rich heritage. "And the important thing is to give the company its own character," Kylian comments. "So that it is not a copy of something already successful, but has its own quality that people want to see."

As for Bruce's hope of winning a new audience and arousing wider interest and enthusiasm for dance, Kylian shares his belief that it is good choreographers who will attract the public. But how to find them? After all, dance in Europe is still dominated by those who began to make their name 15, 20 or more years ago. Will there be others?

"Yes, they always come," Kylian answers, "and it's our duty to make sure it happens. In NDT, for instance, we have a very good young choreographer, Paul Lightfoot, one of your countrymen. And I wish you could see our choreographic workshop — this year we had 16 ballets in one evening. Really, I'm very optimistic."

Rambert opens at the Festival Theatre, Edinburgh (011-529 6000) tonight. The premiere of *Petite Mort* is on Friday.

This week John Percival is succeeded as dance critic by Debra Craine. He will continue to contribute regularly to *The Times*.

CONCERTS: Two great composers respond to two great works of literature

Tragic lovers in perfect harmony

BBC SO/Davis
Festival Hall

Love Scene: the scintillating Queen Mab Scherzo.

The BBC Symphony Orchestra played wonderfully for him, impeccably controlled solo lines emerging from and dissolving back into an orchestral texture that itself seemed to expand and con-

tract like a living organism. Davis has the measure of this music. The Queen Mab Scherzo, with its otherworldly harmonies, antique cymbals and feather-like strings, was done with pinpoint precision. And if the Love Scene was marginally lacking in erotic charge, it was because Davis was more sensitive to the palpitations of the lovers than to the enchantment of the moonlit setting. Vocal contributions, both

solo and choral, were excellent. Jean Rigby offered a sultry invocation to first love, while John Mark Ainsley introduced Mab in a scamping scherzetto as light as air. The part of Friar Laurence in the final section was taken by Matthew Best, ideally resonant in tone but at the same time evoking pity and sorrow at the tragic waste. The BBC Symphony Chorus, under its chorus master Stephen Jackson, goes from strength to strength: ever reliable, alert and responsive, they set the seal on a performance of all-round high quality.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Hellish challenge of heavenly sounds

LPO/Welser-Möst
Festival Hall

Möst, did not spoil the music with over-flamboyance. Instead he seemed to make little of it at all, plunging doggedly along rather than indulging in any of the subtle shading and shaping it demands.

It did not help that the London Philharmonic Choir sang badly, with an unappealingly creaky tone. Even the choir of King's College School were distinctly unimpressive as the Blessed Boys.

Though the mood was thus predominantly pale and uninteresting, many of the solo singers strained themselves to add life and colour. As Faust, and later Doctor Marianus, Simon Keenlyside, deputising at the eleventh hour for Thomas Hampson, made a fine impression, solid-toned but liquid-phased. His tormentor

Mephistopheles, and the Evil Spirit were both the aptly dark-toned and powerful Kurt Rydl, a marvellous terror voice that became mellow for the part of Pater Profundus. And as Gretchen the ageless Dame Margaret Price regaled us with her golden tones.

Of the supporting roles, David Maxwell Anderson and Jonathan Best were assertive — the first even overly so — as Pater Ecstasius and Pater

Seraphicus, while in Part One Ian Bostridge, nursing a cold, made a beguiling though smallish sound as Ariel.

The orchestra did their best — there were some nicely executed effects from the horns as midnight ticked away, time stood still and Faust died in Part Two — but often the textures stayed stodgy and unilluminated.

STEPHEN PETTITT

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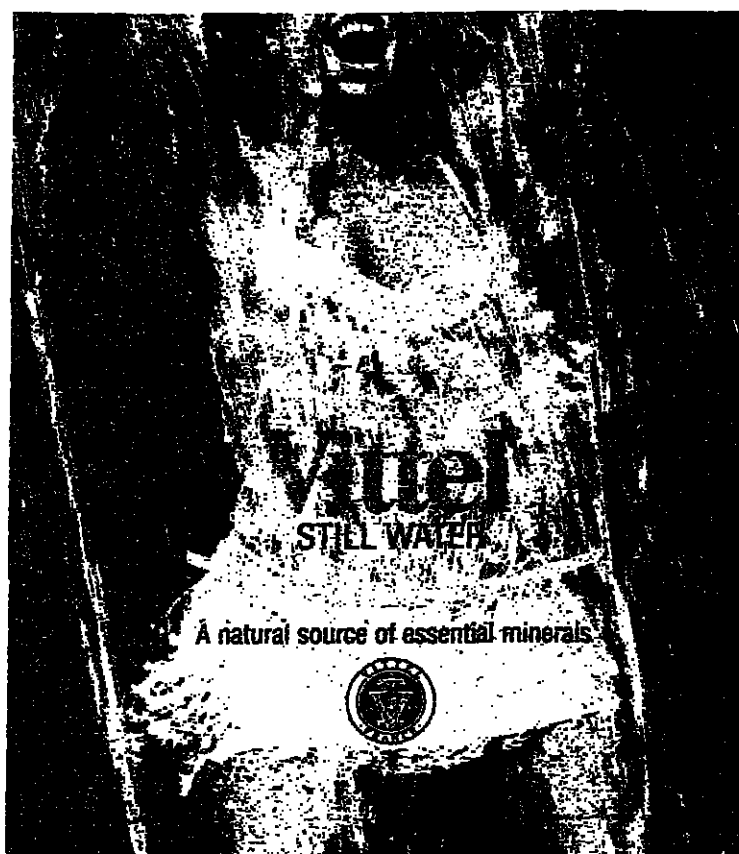
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SJ Berwin & Co is a leading City law firm which has been established since 1982, and our success continues to depend on our commitment not to be the biggest, but to be the best. Our 150 lawyers provide a range of services covering all aspects of Tax, Litigation, Property, Corporate Commercial, EC and Competition to a prestigious international client base.

Legal Secretaries, WP Operators Generous Salaries + PRP & Benefits

We are currently recruiting legal secretaries who want to be part of a successful, quality driven team. We require enthusiastic secretaries who have a good academic background and at least 2 years previous experience in a City law firm.

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We are looking to recruit a team of floating secretaries to work throughout the firm, covering for sickness and holidays. You will have gained experience in a City Legal environment and be familiar with MS Word for Windows.

For all vacancies you will be a team player with an eye for detail and fast accurate WP skills including MS Word for Windows. Other personal qualities needed include the self confidence to deal with new situations, an ability to organise and prioritise, and above all a willingness to work outside normal working hours occasionally to support client activity.

If you feel your skills match our needs, please send your CV, together with a hand written letter to: Claudine Degan, SJ Berwin & Co., 222 Grays Inn Road, LONDON WC1X 8HB or telephone 071 955 8163

A NEW AVEUE FOR YOUR ADMIN OR SECRETARIAL SKILLS

Right now, you're probably an efficient secretary or an able administrator. Either way, you've experience of PC based databases, the ability to prioritise and juggle a varied workload (often under pressure), a real eye for detail, and above all an unshakable personality that enables you to deal effectively at every level. What you're looking for now is a job that will stretch your organisational skills, and position you for a future in team or even office management.

Foundation Bristol could have the answer. The European subsidiary of a leading US healthcare organisation, we've just launched a new approach to health insurance. And, as we grow from strength to strength, we're looking for someone to organise a busy office which handles a constant flow of information, as well as maintain a computerised database of all the healthcare providers that we use. It's a varied and challenging role offering the chance to be at the start of a brand new venture. In addition to a starting salary of around £14,000 we also offer some worthwhile benefits, including, of course, health insurance. If you have the qualities and experience we seek, send your CV to: Ms. Sheldale, National Medical Marketing, Foundation Bristol, 4199 Street, Maryland, London, W1X 7PL. Closing date: 28 October 1994.



Run The Show £20,000

We are looking for a highly organised, socially aware individual to play a key role in the efficient running of the administrative systems for this small but prospering Investment Management company in Mayfair. Your role will encompass office management, personal work for the Chairman and effective administration to client portfolios. 60wpm/computer skills essential. You will need this ability to make sound decisions, work well on your initiative and the flexibility to help out in all areas. Experience in a similar role and languages desirable. Please call Kate Martin on 071 437 6832 or fax CV in strict confidence on 071 494 9607.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Fun on the Floor! £16,000 + Great Banking Bens

WANTED: Young, fun and energetic team secretary to keep in line a bunch of boisterous brokers!

You'll need your wits about you to knock down to the work as the buzz of the trading floor goes on around you. Helping with research projects, organising entertainment and juggling ever-changing priorities are just a taste of what's in store! The prospects could be amazing if you're a fast learner and are naturally positive. Word for Windows, Excel and 60 wpm preferred. Call Savannah or Amanda on 071 377 9919

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Deal at the Top! Up to £18,000 + banking benefits

In the hub of the dealing room within this fast moving American City-based firm, you'll be offering the benefit of your PA experience to the dedicated and demanding director. Assisting him in his every move, as well as being involved with the team, you will be called upon to organise lunches and dinners too. A good sense of humour and a strong work ethic will allow you to enjoy and flourish in this position with a high admin content. Skills of 80/55, MS Word for Windows (Lotus 1-2-3/Excel an advantage). To hear more, please call Caroline Tyers on 071-377 9919.

HOBSTONES
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Fun Money! £18,000

If you are aged in your mid 20's and want to work in a fast moving office based in EC4 then this is the job for you! Working in this vibrant broking firm for 2 directors, an ability to work under pressure and an easy going approach to work are vital. A good financial cv and 90 wpm shorthand are essential. Please call Rachel Hardman on 071-434 4512.

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PA SEC
Chiswick £17,000
Working for the MD, you'll need excellent secretarial (including SH) organisational and communication skills together with a sense of humour and the ability to calmly work under pressure. Call Caroline for an appointment or details of our Open Evening on: 081-894 0106 402 Chiswick High Road, LONDON W4 5TP

ACCOUNT HANDLING SEC

Are you a Secretary in accounting or accounts? If so, this is a superb opportunity to join a dynamic company and work for 2 Accountants. Key skills are 45 wpm typing, shorthand, and strong communication & organising skills. Call Lisa on 026 1493.

BEAVERS
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Knight Frank & Rutley

SECRETARY

Required for busy Kensington office. You need to be enthusiastic, competent, hardworking and have exceptional organisational skills. Please write with CV to: Vanessa Wright, Knight Frank & Rutley, 67 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4EG.

P.A. TO M.D.

c.£20k + MORT. SUB.
We are recruiting for our client, an international headhunter, a P.A. for their M.D. You must be well presented together with good oral and written communication skills. Please send your CV to: 071 494 3111

Excel

PA £25,000 Neg
Good natured, well spoken, well organised with total integrity. PA for a very busy happy firm near Hammersmith, selected to 'A' level standard. 110/60 sth. Age 24-35. Must be someone (non-smoker) Please ring us at any time 071 494 3111

PA/SECRETARY

Required by a busy City company, we are looking for a P.A. to the Managing Director and the other for Sales Director and the support staff. Excellent benefits for both positions are offered, including pension and share options. Salary negotiable. Call to Mary Lacey, 40 Hammersmith Lane, London W6 7JH

ONE IN A MILLION

£22,000 - SW1
Our client is unique - the entrepreneurial driving force behind one of Europe's most successful business empires and the architect of an immense stream of charitable endeavour. Working at the hub of unceasing activity, much of your role will be administrative. Standards are exceptionally high so your unerring eye for detail and calm, unfailing competence are pre-requisites. Proven success in a similarly demanding environment is requested. Skills 110/70.

STEP INTO A PA ROLE

£18,000 - W1
Do you have the skills, confidence and flair to step into this true, one-to-one PA role and successfully 'upwardly manage' your boss? He is a young, very busy director of a highly regarded property investment company. As his first ever full-time PA you will help him to organise diary, travel, meetings, lunches - and to delegate more over time. Professional and/or commercial background requested. Shorthand/typing (80/50) essential.

Gordon Yates recruits on the basis of merit and equal opportunity. Please call 071-493 5707 today.

GORDON YATES
Recruitment Consultants

Why we want someone special

Sheila McKechnie, the current Director of Shelter, is due to take over as the Director of Consumers' Association in January. She now needs an excellent assistant to support her.

You'll be responsible for providing her with complete administrative and secretarial support. This will include dealing with her correspondence and drafting responses, keeping her diary, arranging meetings, handling telephone enquiries and liaising with senior members of staff and a wide range of national and international VIPs.

Experience as a PA to someone of similar status is needed to convince us that you can be relied on to use your initiative, be diplomatic, organise your work and handle the pressures of the role. You will need to be as committed and professional as the new Director.

In return, you can expect a wide range of benefits including free life insurance, contributory pension scheme, free season-ticket loan and 28 days' holiday.

If you have these special qualities, are highly competent and have an advanced level of wordprocessing skills, please send your c.v. to: Emma Murray, Personnel Officer, Consumers' Association, 2 Marylebone Road, London NW1 4DF. We anticipate that interviews for this position will be held on Friday 18 November or Monday 21 November. Closing date: 10 November 1994.

We are working towards equal opportunities

PA to our new Director

c. £20,000
Central London

WHICH?

City Consulting Firm Seeks PA/TEAM SECRETARY TEAM SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

We are an entrepreneurial City-based personnel consultancy group looking for two hardworking professionals to help us provide the consistently high standard of service that our clients require. Professional presentation, initiative and organisational skills are essential. We need team players with a bright, enthusiastic and flexible approach for the following positions.

PA/Team Secretary

A challenging role for a fast-thinking team player, this dynamic environment demands initiative, organisational skills, a level-headed disposition and the ability to work to deadlines. You will provide PA secretarial and administrative support to the Managing Director and a small team of consultants. Ideally you will be educated to at least 'A' Level standard, have excellent WP experience (WordPerfect 5.1), smart presentation and be in your mid to late twenties.

Team Secretary/Receptionist

You will meet and mix with clients at all levels and be directly involved with the day-to-day activities of a busy, successful division of the consultancy. Based in beautiful offices near St Paul's we are looking for an accurate typist with excellent personal presentation and interpersonal skills combined with a naturally caring attitude. Experience of a service industry would be advantageous. You must have experience of WordPerfect 5.1 and reception activities and will be willing to learn database systems.

To apply, please send or fax your CV, quoting the relevant reference number, to the Administration Manager, 76 Watling Street, London EC4M 9BJ (Fax: 071 248 2814).

£16k - 17½ + MORG. SUBS. + PERKS!! S/H SEC. FOR CORPORATE FINANCE DEPT.

Are you aged 22-26, well presented and with a good telephone manner? Would you like to work for two Directors in luxury offices in a Merchant Bank based in the City? If you are ready for your second or third job then don't miss this excellent package. Call Gwyn or fax CV in the first instance.

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Rushmore House, 12 South Molton Street
London W1T 1DF

Bored? Underpaid?

Are you looking for MORE? Involvement and salary? We are currently seeking dynamic energetic secretaries for several City based positions from Junior to exec P.A. (£12-£25k). All we ask is that you have unquestionable skills and immaculate presentation. Financial experience is not required. Mondays to Fridays need not be a nightmare! We could help! Why not talk to us today!

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CROSS SELECTION

£16,500 & Bonus IT

As Secretary primarily to the IT Director of this growing City company, you will be a key member of a 20-strong young department where you will be encouraged to develop your skills & contribute your ideas. This role would suit a confident young secretary who can be relied on to use their initiative, take responsibility for more than straight secretarial duties & work as part of a team. Computer literacy & a real interest in IT. Skills 80/60

The Recruitment Company
071-831 1220

SECRETARY

PACKAGE: £14,500 - £16,000

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Salary negotiable + benefits

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A major private organisation based in prestigious HQ offices in Westminster is seeking a mature (35+) person as PA to Director. Must be highly organised, excellent WP skills, Sh 110+/wpm/70/80 wpm and even disposition. The work is demanding and challenging leading at a senior level. Please write with CV to:

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PA to MD of small successful start up consultancy based in the City. Must be experienced at this level, computer literate (WP6.0 + Database), have good secretarial (audio) and organisational skills. Must have initiative and professional telephone manner. Sense of humour a definite advantage. Good opportunities for progression for the right person. Salary dependent upon age and experience. Please send CV, cover letter and salary details to: Dr Greville R. Corne, Managing Director, PharmSearch Ltd, 46 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9TH 071 493 6300

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ADMIN Assistant £17,000 plus benefits. Must be a good organiser and

Hide seeks the high noon route to riches

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT IN HONG KONG

HERBIE Hide, the world Boxing Organisation (WBO) heavyweight champion, and Frank Bruno are making the most of their time out of the shadow of Lennox Lewis, who lost his World Boxing Council title recently. With Lewis moved to the sidelines for the moment by his backers, while they seek the best way back for him, Bruno and Hide will try to convince the world that they should be taken seriously, not only as heavyweights but also as crowd-pleasers.

That is why they are taking on two Americans here, Hide meeting Tommy Morrison and Bruno taking on Ray Mercer. While neither Morrison nor Mercer is regarded highly by experts, the Americans, being former WBO champions, are good names for the Britons to beat. Exciting performances against them could earn Hide, particularly, and to a certain extent Bruno, important slots on American television.

An exotic venue being needed as a showcase for the Britain v United States tournament, Bob Arum, the American promoter, turned to John Daly, the man who had put on the "Rumble in the Jungle" 20 years ago in which Muhammad Ali met George Foreman in Zaire.

Now chairman of Hemdale Pictures Corporation, which produced such prize-winning films as *Platoon* and *The Last Emperor*, Daly decided to put High Noon in Hong Kong on in the city where he has commercial interests.

He called Barry Hearn, Hide's promoter, and asked him to put together a \$3 million boxing package. "We came to Hong Kong because of the changes that are hap-

pening in 1997," Hearn said. "Hong Kong is the window of the Orient. It is where the really big money is in Asia." So far, only 5,000 of the 45,000 seats at the Hong Kong Stadium have been sold. Even though Hearn fears that Daly could incur a loss, he feels the last-minute walk-up sales could fill the stadium. "This is an unusual place," Hearn said. "You can have 40,000 people buying tickets to a horse race in one night because they [the citizens of Hong Kong] are a nation of overnight investors."

"It looks as if Daly is heading for a loss but he could still pull it off." Hearn also believes that good performances by Bruno, Hide and Billy Schuler, of Lumb, who challenges Rafael Ruelas, also of the United States, for the WBO lightweight title, could make the three Britons into marketable boxers. "It could bring Hide a world title defence against Riddick Bowe, who is the No. 1 WBO challenger."

If this bout does not materialise, then Hide could meet Bruno. "Bruno is ideal for any world heavyweight champion," Hearn said. "He is big, predictable, English and gets beaten on the big occasions. On the other side, he's got a good record, promotes himself well, looks the part and brings in the television."

Lewis does not figure in Hide's plans. "He's out of everybody's picture," Hearn said. "Who wants him? One, he's a good fighter; two, he's awkward, three, he has been the champion; four, he's going to want big money; five, he can be beaten but he can beat us as well."



Captains past and present, Gooch, left, Atherton and Gillingham before flying to Australia from Heathrow yesterday

England enjoy calm before storm

BY SIMON WILKS

IN SHARP contrast to the practice of recent years, England's touring cricketers met as a party for the first time only hours before their flight to Australia departed yesterday afternoon. There had been no workouts at Lillieshall, no Agincourt-like addresses and, even at Heathrow Airport, nothing more rigorous was expected of the players than to take possession of their sponsored mobile telephones and provide a hopeful turn of phrase for a caravan of waiting television cameras.

This may be a reflection party of the way Michael Atherton has relaxed the England set-up since the days of Graham Gooch, who was principally due to the fact that a five-month England season had ended only 29 days earlier and a 3½-month tour lay ahead.

Most of the 16 members of the tour party spent those 29 days holidaying

abroad or resting at home. Some of them arranged their own training — the most strenuous of which was probably that of Gooch himself, who, at 41, is the oldest of the group — but they were under strict orders to take it easy. There will be plenty of time over the coming weeks to take life seriously.

The main exception was Craig White, who has not played since early August, when it was diagnosed that he was suffering from stress fractures of the left shin. He has been working hard on building up his fitness with the assistance of Dean Riddell, the Leeds rugby league coach. Both White and Darren Gough, his fellow Yorkshireman, signed four-year contracts with the county before joining the tour.

The England players will have plenty of time to dust off the cobwebs. They spend a week in Perth before their first fixture, a one-day match against a Chairman's XI

on October 25, and do not meet Australia until November 25, when the first of the five Test matches begins in Brisbane. The others follow at Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth. They will also play up to nine one-day internationals.

There was no doubting what was the most sought-after photo-opportunity yesterday: Atherton, Gooch and Mike Gatting, leaders of the three most recent missions down under, were rarely allowed out of each other's company all morning. Gatting was the last man to win the Ashes for England, in December 1986, since when they have won one, lost 12 and drawn six of their 19 Tests with Australia.

As if he needed any further incentive to beat Australia, Atherton learnt yesterday that Telford Bitter was considering rewarding him and his players with a "substantial" cash bonus if they return home in February with the Ashes.

Union would do well to heed lessons from the professors

Anyone who has ever picked up a book knows the pleasures of the chance find. There is an aleatory dimension to reading that every now and then throws a real treasure into your path.

The other day I bought a handful of Wordsworth Classics at a quid a time. I shan't write here of Kipling's verse ("Here's to you, fuzzy-wuzzy..."), nor of renewing the unholy acquaintance of M. R. James. But I also found a minor classic I had long wanted to peruse.

This was *Raffles* by E. W. Hornung, which was first published in 1899. The hero, of course, is a cricketer, the type who always seems to excel in the Gentlemen v Players match, and for the Gentlemen, naturally.

He is also, of course, a thief. Filches the jewels during a country house cricket week, that sort of thing. "Why should I work when I can steal? Why settle down to some humdrum, unexciting, romance, danger and a decent living were all going begging together?"

Why indeed? For there is not the shadow of a doubt that Raffles steals for a living. "You're hopeless, Bunny, quite hopeless," he says to his own Watson, Bunny Danvers. "I take it you wouldn't have refused your share if the boodle had fallen to us?" Stealing is a business for Raffles: a paying business. But consider the book's full title: *Raffles: The Amateur Cracksman*. Raffles steals for the money, not for the sport, or not primarily. But he still considers himself an amateur.

There is a moment when a "professional" gang is going for the same prize as Raffles himself. "It would be worth something to take on the old hands at their own game. Eh, Bunny? That would be something like a match. Gentlemen and Players at single wicket, by Jove!"

And by Jove, Raffles takes 'em on, all the while expressing the greatest admiration for the skills of "the professors", as he loves to term the professionals.

And, in fact, the professors win that particular round, and Raffles is ungrudging. "The professors' methods were full of interest to me. I gained as much in experience as I have lost in other things."

Very plain it soon becomes very plain indeed that the term "amateur" has nothing whatsoever to do with money. Nor does Hornung intend it to. Raffles needs, or wants, money as much as any professor. "Amateur" is a description not of financial aspiration but of social class.

All of which brings us once again to amateurism as the sacred cow of sport, albeit a beast terminally stricken with foot and mouth disease, a beast that it would be a kindness to

MIDWEEK VIEW



SIMON BARNES

despatch. The weekend will bring us the rugby league international: Great Britain against Australia, and a match that is likely to be a stirring one. These are the professors at work and, like Raffles, we shall find their methods full of interest.

So, indeed, will the gentlemen of rugby union, at least those of them that have any sense, and there are more of those than you would think, most particularly on the playing and coaching side of things.

But in the meantime, the gentleman's game has been up to its usual tricks, this time in New Zealand. In the now-famous Australia v North Harbour game of last weekend, a player was kicked in the face, two were sent-off, mayhem was constant and the New Zealand sports minister, John Banks, summed up: "What the country witnessed was not rugby but frightening brutality." I am reminded of Graham Greene's *Travels with my Aunt*, when Aunt Augusta discusses professionals and amateurs of promiscuous sex: "An amateur is never in control of her art." Perhaps that is what is wrong with rugby union.

One hundred years ago, the Northern Union, which subsequently became the Rugby Football Union. The split was not, as legend insists, about professionalism. It was, in fact, a requirement of the Northern Union that all players had full-time jobs. The idea of broken-time payments was to prevent shambles of the W.G. Grace kind.

But amateurism came in as a kind of retrospective virtue. As Richard Holt sums up in his classic, *Sport and the British*: "The amateur code was, in practice, frequently a means of excluding working-class players from high-level competition. Moral arguments were a means of class exclusivity... By refusing to countenance broken-time payments, [the rugby union was] effectively excluding manual workers from better teams, who needed time to train and travel."

Rugby union is still paying the price for this call it The Raffles Error. I suspect that the professors will teach us all a thing or two on Saturday.



The aim is to select the 15 players who will win the highest score in the Courage Clubs Championship. Scores are calculated by multiplying each player's actual score by a rating factor, based on his past scoring record.

THE LEADING 50 ENTRIES

Rank	Player	Club	Points
1	John Hogg	Stirling	280
2	John Hogg	Stirling	270
3	John Hogg	Stirling	260
4	John Hogg	Stirling	250
5	John Hogg	Stirling	240
6	John Hogg	Stirling	230
7	John Hogg	Stirling	220
8	John Hogg	Stirling	210
9	John Hogg	Stirling	200
10	John Hogg	Stirling	190
11	John Hogg	Stirling	180
12	John Hogg	Stirling	170
13	John Hogg	Stirling	160
14	John Hogg	Stirling	150
15	John Hogg	Stirling	140
16	John Hogg	Stirling	130
17	John Hogg	Stirling	120
18	John Hogg	Stirling	110
19	John Hogg	Stirling	100
20	John Hogg	Stirling	90
21	John Hogg	Stirling	80
22	John Hogg	Stirling	70
23	John Hogg	Stirling	60
24	John Hogg	Stirling	50
25	John Hogg	Stirling	40
26	John Hogg	Stirling	30
27	John Hogg	Stirling	20
28	John Hogg	Stirling	10
29	John Hogg	Stirling	0
30	John Hogg	Stirling	0
31	John Hogg	Stirling	0
32	John Hogg	Stirling	0
33	John Hogg	Stirling	0
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36	John Hogg	Stirling	0
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39	John Hogg	Stirling	0
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42	John Hogg	Stirling	0
43	John Hogg	Stirling	0
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45	John Hogg	Stirling	0
46	John Hogg	Stirling	0
47	John Hogg	Stirling	0
48	John Hogg	Stirling	0
49	John Hogg	Stirling	0
50	John Hogg	Stirling	0

COURAGE BEST WEEKLY SCORE

Rank	Player	Club	Points
1	John Hogg	Stirling	280
2	John Hogg	Stirling	270
3	John Hogg	Stirling	260
4	John Hogg	Stirling	250
5	John Hogg	Stirling	240
6	John Hogg	Stirling	230
7	John Hogg	Stirling	220
8	John Hogg	Stirling	210
9	John Hogg	Stirling	200
10	John Hogg	Stirling	190
11	John Hogg	Stirling	180
12	John Hogg	Stirling	170
13	John Hogg	Stirling	160
14	John Hogg	Stirling	150
15	John Hogg	Stirling	140
16	John Hogg	Stirling	130
17	John Hogg	Stirling	120
18	John Hogg	Stirling	110
19	John Hogg	Stirling	100
20	John Hogg	Stirling	90
21	John Hogg	Stirling	80
22	John Hogg	Stirling	70
23	John Hogg	Stirling	60
24	John Hogg	Stirling	50
25	John Hogg	Stirling	40
26	John Hogg	Stirling	30
27	John Hogg	Stirling	20
28	John Hogg	Stirling	10
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48	John Hogg	Stirling	0
49	John Hogg	Stirling	0
50	John Hogg	Stirling	0

THE SCORES FROM LAST SATURDAY'S LEAGUE GAMES AND CUMULATIVE POINTS TOTALS

Rank	Team	Points
1	Stirling	280
2	Stirling	270
3	Stirling	260
4	Stirling	250
5	Stirling	240
6	Stirling	230
7	Stirling	220
8	Stirling	210
9	Stirling	200
10	Stirling	190
11	Stirling	180
12	Stirling	170
13	Stirling	160
14	Stirling	150
15	Stirling	140
16	Stirling	130
17	Stirling	120
18	Stirling	110
19	Stirling	100
20	Stirling	90
21	Stirling	80
22	Stirling	70
23	Stirling	60
24	Stirling	50
25	Stirling	40
26	Stirling	30
27	Stirling	20
28	Stirling	10
29	Stirling	0
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31	Stirling	0
32	Stirling	0
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36	Stirling	0
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38	Stirling	0
39	Stirling	0
40	Stirling	0
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43	Stirling	0
44	Stirling	0
45	Stirling	0
46	Stirling	0
47	Stirling	0
48	Stirling	0
49	Stirling	0
50	Stirling	0



SPORT
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OFFICIAL AGENTS



Your current team selection is valid for the competition which covers the full 18-match Courage Clubs Championship and for the competition covering the first half of the league season, ending November 5. After that date there will be the opportunity to enter a new selection for the competition covering the second half of the season (January 7 - April 29).

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL
Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
European Champions' League
Group A
Man Utd v Barcelona (8.30)
Auto Windscreens Shield
Southern section
Bristol Rovers v Bournemouth (8.0)
Barnley v Bradford (7.45)
FA YOUTH CUP: Second qualifying round
Harrow Borough v Epsom and Twickenham, Epsom v Harrow (8.0), 7.45; Trophy: Lancaster v Derby (8.0).
SHOCKERS: Stora Grand Prix (Derby)
TENNIS: International women's championship (Brighton)

THE TIMES

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Pennekamp doubtful for 2,000 Guineas

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

THE connections of Pennekamp, whose Newmarket States victory at Newmarket last week saw him elevated to joint-favourite for next season's 2,000 Guineas, warned yesterday that the unbeaten colt could bypass that classic in favour of the Derby.

Pennekamp, trained in France by André Fabre, is as low as 6-1 in Corals' 2,000 Guineas list, but Anthony Stroud, racing manager to the colt's owner, Shaikh Mohammed, felt it prudent to advise would-be ante-post supporters.

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to back Pennekamp only with a run. William Hill were quick to react, quoting Pennekamp at 4-1 with a run, for the Newmarket classic.

After Fabre contacted Stroud to clarify the picture, Stroud said: "André has advised us that the horse's main objective will be the Vodafone Derby."

Therefore, anyone wanting to back Pennekamp for the 2,000 Guineas should secure a "with-a-run" concession from bookmakers.

"The horse could go for the French 2,000 Guineas, the Prix Lupin and then the Derby at Epsom," Stroud continued. "Alternatively, he could come



The visored Ezzoud, runner-up in the Prince of Wales's Stakes at Royal Ascot, will run next on dirt in the Breeders' Cup Classic

to Newmarket before running at Epsom. We want to keep all our options open, which is why we want people to be aware of the situation."

Montjoy, who chased home Pennekamp in the Prix de la Salamandre last month, is to miss the Racing Post Trophy

on Saturday even though he worked with gusto yesterday on the gallops of his trainer, Paul Cole.

After Montjoy finished in front of Frecede, Cole decided to draw a stopper for the season on the basis that the colt had endured a hectic schedule. "I

think he's the type of horse who will come out of the winter a lot stronger," Cole said of Montjoy. "He's had two hard trips to France and I don't want to overdo him." Cole also confirmed that Stourge, who has been trained to accrue £1,326,704 — a Euro-

pean record in earnings — had been retired after sustaining an injury behind Wagon Master at Ascot last month.

Precede, by his part, is likely to bypass Doncaster in favour of the Grand Criterium in Milan on Sunday. Consequently, Corals issued revised

prices for the Racing Post Trophy. The firm shortened Celtic Swing to 4-6 favorite, followed by 5-1 Juyush, 6-1 Don Corleone, 13-2 Annus Mirabilis and 14-1 or better about the remainder.

Of more immediate concern is the future of White Muzzle,

who was bitterly disappointed when last of nine runners in the Rothmans International Stakes in Canada on Sunday. Peter Chapple-Hyam, the four-year-old's trainer, is still at odds to explain White Muzzle's uncharacteristic fall from grace, as is John Reid, who partnered the colt at Woodbine.

"I can't explain how he ran so badly," Chapple-Hyam said. However, White Muzzle's retirement from racing appears imminent in the wake of Chapple-Hyam's revelation that he has been afflicted by a physical ailment. "I know he has got arthritis in his left shoulder, but that doesn't explain his poor effort," the trainer said. "He always seems to run badly around left-handed tracks."

Chapple-Hyam added that White Muzzle's owner, Teruya Yoshida, would be contacting him today to announce what the future holds. It will be a surprise if White Muzzle does not bypass the Breeders' Cup Turf and head straight for Yoshida's Shadai Farm in Japan, to take up stud duties. White Muzzle is considered most unlikely to return to Chapple-Hyam's Manton stables next year; he has already been fully syndicated for his impending stallion career in the Far East.

Meanwhile, Hatool's Breeders' Cup target has been confirmed as the Turf over 12 furlongs, leaving Ezzoud, in the same ownership, to contest the Classic over ten furlongs on dirt.

McManus yields to Harold on point of consistency

BY PHIL YATES

DAVE Harold, who has produced the highest quality smoocher of anyone at the Skoda Grand Prix, reached the quarter-finals of the world-ranking event with an impressive 5-2 victory over Alan McManus, the world No. 6, at the Assembly Rooms, Derby, yesterday.

Harold, winner of the Asian Open last year as a 500-1 outsider, had made at least a half-century break in every frame he had won in the two previous rounds and that propensity to fully exploit scoring opportunities was again on display against McManus.

A 69 clearance, from 1-60 down, enabled McManus to steal the first frame on the black but for the next three frames the Dubai Classic champion was relegated to the role of a spectator.

He potted only two reds while Harold forged 3-1 ahead at the interval with runs of 113, 53 and 140, the last of which superseded Stephen Hendry's 133 as the highest break of the televised stages, putting Harold in line for a bonus of £2,400. It equaled a break by Jimmy White in 1990 as the highest in front of the cameras since the tournament was first broadcast by the BBC in 1984.

McManus, who needed to win in order to move up to third in the provisional world rankings, twice missed a difficult pink for 2-3. Harold eventually potted pink and black in the fifth frame to lead 4-1 and, although he lost the sixth, a 55 break, initiated by a fluked red, saw Harold through to a quarter-final with Hendry tomorrow.

Harold beat Hendry, under less than ideal playing conditions, in the last 32 of the 1993 Asian Open but the world champion has dominated their three other meetings, winning 25 of the 25 frames contested.

While Harold is fully aware of his less than convincing record against Hendry, he does not lack confidence. "I think I'm a better player now than when I won in Bangkok, without a shadow of doubt. I

RESULT

THIRD ROUND: D Harold (Eng) bt A McManus (Scott) 5-2. Frame scores (Harold first): 6-70, 140-0 (140 break), 61-2, 113-0 (113 break), 55-55, 21-75, 55-25.

am jogging regularly. I am physically fit and mentally I'm spot on," Harold, the world No.19, from Stoke-on-Trent, said.

After three years during which, on his own admission, an ill-advised lifestyle has caused problems, Jimmy Michie has abandoned lager and late nights. The Yorkshireman was rewarded for his abstinence on Monday night by beating Peter Ebdon, the holder, 5-3.

Michie, 23, from Pontefract, who occupies 76th position in the world rankings, maintained a remarkably high standard. He compiled breaks of 90, 78, 83 and 78 and restricted Ebdon, runner-up, to McManus in the Dubai Classic 12 days ago, to only 19 points in the closing four frames.

"I've been a bit of a madman in the past, nightclubbing and drinking the night before matches," Michie said. "It's no good, you've got to calm down and do a bit of growing up. I'm getting married next year and it's made me see sense."

Michie is guaranteed £9,050, £3,000 more than he earned throughout the entire 1993-94 season and more than his previous biggest single cheque of £2,700 — for reaching the last 32 of the Thailand Open in March.

In the quarter-finals tonight Michie will play Joe Swail, the world No.10, or Wayne Brown, a rookie professional from Liverpool, who has already negotiated no less than eight matches to figure in the last 16.

Ronnie O'Sullivan attempts to reach the last four of a leading tournament for the third time in succession against John Higgins this afternoon.

Racing pays tribute to Scott

THE racing world turned out in force yesterday to pay its last respects to Alex Scott, the trainer killed in a shooting incident last month. Many of the sport's biggest names filled St Peter's Church, in the village of Moulton, outside Newmarket. At least a further 100 mourners stood outside in the church grounds.

Among those who attended were fellow trainers Henry Cecil, Michael Stoute, John Gosden, John Dunlop and Luca Cramani. The jockeys were represented by Walter Swinburn, Pat Eddery, Willie Carson and Michael Roberts.

Scott, who was married with three young children, died on September 30 at his stud in Newmarket. In the address, Scott's friend, Lord Howland, said: "We are gathered here today in stunned shock, horror and grief to remember Alex. He was one of life's greats, a very rare person who we were all blessed to know."

Howland recalled past Scott successes, including his memorable victory with Sheikh Albadou in the 1991 Breeders' Cup Sprint, still one of only two British successes at the meeting.

"To say he was one of the great trainers is something time has cruelly robbed us of, but he was well down the road to being a great trainer," he added. Scott died having produced his first Derby hope in Lammtara, who will be trained by his former assistant, Ed Dunlop, next year. Swinburn pledged after the service to do everything he could to ensure that Lammtara fulfils his classic potential. He said: "It was a service Alex would have been proud of. All we can do now is hope Lammtara can go and win the Derby for us."

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER
2.10 Nashville Star, 2.40 Forward Glen, 3.10 Chief Minister, 3.40 Down Road, 4.10 Master Hyde, 4.40 Kusbahow.

GOING: FIRM SIS

2.10 NORTHUMBRIA JUVENILE HURDLE (22.22; 2m 11yds) (4 runners)

1 NASHVILLE STAR (5) (D) A Bailey 11-5 T Kent
2 NASHVILLE STAR (5) (D) A Bailey 11-5 T Kent
3 BLANK (2) (D) A Bailey 11-5 T Kent
4 RUNNING GREEN (2) (D) A Bailey 11-5 T Kent

2.40 BUREAU HURDLE (22.67; 3m) (10)

1 CHARLE MCINTOSH (7) (D) A Bailey 11-5 T Kent
2 CHARLE MCINTOSH (7) (D) A Bailey 11-5 T Kent
3 CHARLE MCINTOSH (7) (D) A Bailey 11-5 T Kent
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EXETER

THUNDERER
1.50 Fleur De Tal, 2.20 Caimineach, 2.50 Singers Image, 3.20 Land Of The Free, 3.50 Beam Me Up Scotty, 4.20 Abu Mubashir, 4.50 Gonnabeg.

GOING: FIRM SIS

1.50 KRAFT GENERAL FOODS FOODSERVICE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (21.95; 2m 11yds) (10 runners)

1 FLEUR DE TAL (2) (D) A Bailey 11-5 T Kent
2 FLEUR DE TAL (2) (D) A Bailey 11-5 T Kent
3 FLEUR DE TAL (2) (D) A Bailey 11-5 T Kent
4 FLEUR DE TAL (2) (D) A Bailey 11-5 T Kent

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YARMOUTH

THUNDERER
2.00 Ball Gown, 2.30 SCENIC DANCER (nap), 3.00 Lynton Lad.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.30 BONITA. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 BALL GOWN (nap), 3.00 Newmarket, 4.00 Asyrian.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.00 THURBY HANDICAP (4.38; 1m 21yds) (19 runners)

1 BONITA (5) (D) A Bailey 11-5 T Kent
2 BONITA (5) (D) A Bailey 11-5 T Kent
3 BONITA (5) (D) A Bailey 11-5 T Kent
4 BONITA (5) (D) A Bailey 11-5 T Kent

2.00 THURBY HANDICAP (4.38; 1m 21yds) (19 runners)

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WICKHAMPTON RACECARD

THUNDERER
2.00 Ball Gown, 2.30 SCENIC DANCER (nap), 3.00 Lynton Lad.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.30 BONITA. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 BALL GOWN (nap), 3.00 Newmarket, 4.00 Asyrian.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

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BOXING 43

HIGH NOON IN
HONG KONG FOR
BRUNO AND HIDE

SPORT

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19 1994

TENNIS 44

WOOD BEATEN AS
BRITISH HOPES
TUMBLE ONCE MORE

Late slip hands Turkish side slim advantage in Uefa Cup

Orhan wrecks Villa's away day

Trabzonspor..... 1
Aston Villa..... 0

FROM PETER BALL
IN TRABZON, TURKEY

JUST when it seemed that the dangers awaiting them by the shores of the Black Sea had been exaggerated, Aston Villa succumbed to a goal by Orhan 13 minutes from time. Trabzonspor thus take a slim advantage to Villa Park for the second leg of this Uefa Cup second round tie in a fortnight. Villa's first task on a warm evening was to quieten the volatile crowd. Coaches, some coming from as far as Ankara, more than 200 miles distant, had been arriving in the bustling port since lunchtime.

By two hours before the kick-off, as the Anatolian night fell, the ground was packed. The balconies, roofs and windows of the flats overlooking the Avni Aker Stadium were crowded and inside drums beat incessantly and smoke from the flares hung over the high stand.

When Villa came out they were greeted with a storm of

able. Only the runs of Soner down the right and the probing of Unal gave them much cause for concern, but with McGrath and Ehiogu secure in the centre there was little to trouble Spink.

Trabzonspor's had only two serious threats for Villa in the first 45 minutes. Their best chance also came early as Chengiz briefly forsook his marking duties to meet Orhan's corner with a header beyond the far post. King, however, was inside the post and kicked it away without problem and when Abdullah sent in a shot, Barrett headed it away before it could even reach Spink.

The only other moment of danger for Villa came on the half hour, when Tolunay teed the ball up for Unal, whose shot dipped just over the bar.

If Villa could be satisfied at the interval, the opening minute of the second period brought the crowd back to full voice. Trabzonspor had clearly been given a roasting at half-time and they began the second half with renewed vigour.

Within 30 seconds they had nearly taken the lead as the ball was worked out to Hami. The Turkish international striker cut in and beat Spink with a dipping cross-shot that flew off the bar. Before the danger was cleared, Spink had to block Tolunay's angled shot with his legs.

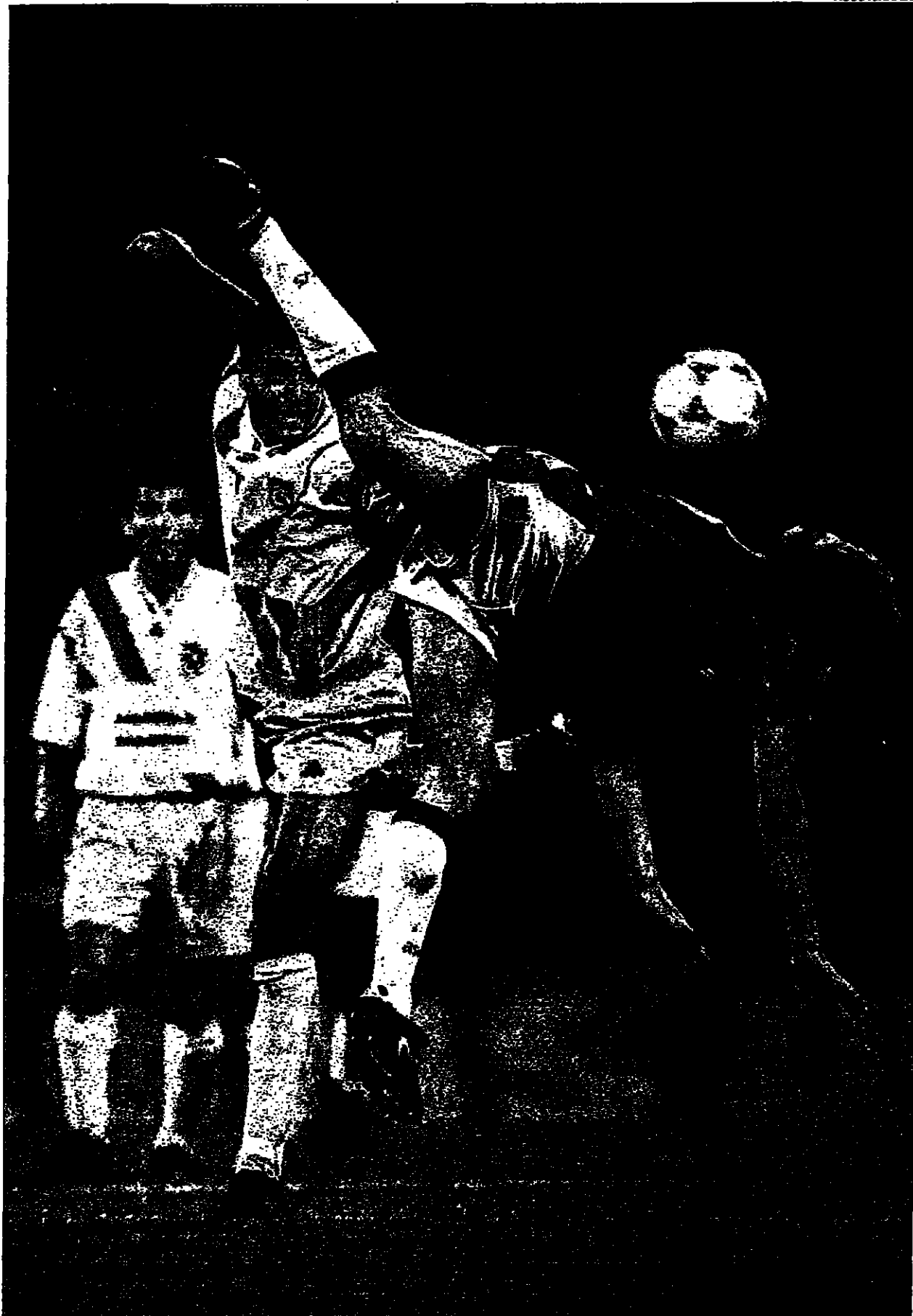
That flurry did not last, however, and the home side's frustration at their failure to put Villa under constant pressure began to show as Lemi and then Kemal were booked. Lemi, who collected a yellow card in the first round, will miss the second leg.

But Villa's increasing comfort was to be rudely interrupted with 13 minutes remaining. Some slack marking was evident as Orhan met Hami's corner with a fierce header that flew past Spink to be greeted by a volley of fireworks.

TRABZONSPOR (1-4-3-2): V. Grishko — Ogon — Lemi, Kemal, Chengiz, Abdullah — Soner, Tolunay, Unal — Hami (sub: Hami, 65min), K. Orhan (sub: Katcharava, 88).

ASTON VILLA (4-4-2): N. Spink — E. Barrett, U. Ehiogu, P. McGrath, P. King — R. Houghton, K. Richardson, A. Townsend, S. Staunton, D. Saunders, G. Whittingham, Referee: M. Piraux (Belgium).

□ Aston Villa were fined Sw£25,000 (about £12,500) by Uefa yesterday for the pitch invasion at Villa Park that followed their dramatic win in a penalty shoot-out over Internazionale this month.



Townsend, the Aston Villa captain, falls foul of the Trabzonspor defence in Turkey last night

Kean gamble . Page 44
Milan search ... Page 44

booing but, with armed police and soldiers ringing the running track, the hostility remained only spoken. By half-time, with Villa ahead on points, the crowd was subdued.

Indeed, Villa might have had a tangible advantage rather than a moral one by the interval, for they created two fine chances in the first 13 minutes. The first came as Staunton robbed Soner in midfield and found Saunders, who beat his marker and crossed. Houghton met the ball on the volley and teed it up for Whittingham, who hit the underside of the bar from in front of goal.

Whittingham, who had replaced Dalian Atkinson in Villa's search to find a consistent supply of goals, was also involved in their second early chance as he got in front of Grishko to meet King's cross. The forward turned it back for Houghton, but the Irishman was blocked by Abdullah.

Those early chances settled Villa and although they were not to create anything as clear-cut before the interval, they increasingly looked comfort-

Arsenal relish return to scene of past success

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON



Jensen: goalless

COPENHAGEN holds fond memories for Arsenal and John Jensen. It was where, on May 4, Arsenal beat Parma, of Italy, 1-0 to lift the European Cup Winners' Cup last season. It was where Jensen, their midfield player, was born, grew up and learnt his trade as a professional with Brøndby. Today, Arsenal and Jensen return to Copenhagen — the largest city in Scandinavia and site of the world-renowned Little Mermaid landmark.

While not quite a fairytale in the best Hans Christian Andersen tradition, Arsenal's success in the Cup Winners' Cup is phenomenal. They are unbeaten in 20 matches, apart from the penalty shoot-out loss against Valencia in the 1980 final, with another positive

result beckoning in the suburb of Brøndby tomorrow. The second-round tie could prove awkward but not ultimately costly over the two legs, even with Paul Merson having to miss the trip with an ankle injury. The forward, who scored twice against Omonia, Nicosia, in the first round in Cyprus, has missed Arsenal's last two FA Cup Premier League games, but Arsenal still won both of them.

Victory against Parma was the sixth trophy for George Graham, the Arsenal manager, during his eight-year reign in north London and his enthusiasm for further silverware shows no signs of dimming.

He cannot afford to let it: the Highbury critics, as ever, are ready to pounce: "I know I've got to keep winning things to keep them happy,"

he said. "I'm not allowed to forget that."

Despite a lacklustre start to the Premiership programme, he refuses to be caught up in the hyper-inflated transfer frenzy: "It is no use buying players who are not good enough to walk straight into my team," he said. "I want only top quality and, until it becomes available, I won't make any buys."

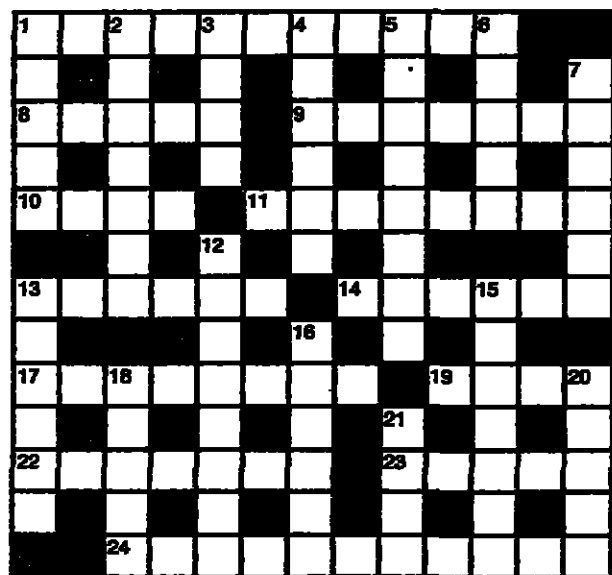
Two years ago, Graham paid Brøndby £1.1 million for Jensen, the Danish international. Short of top quality, maybe, but a typical Arsenal player — strong, industrious and with a will to run until the last whistle sounds. Graham's investment, however, has not been repaid in goals.

Jensen, 29, has failed to trouble the scoreboard operator in 90 appearances

since his move and has attained cult status at Highbury. Mocking shouts of "shoot, shoot" accompany him whenever he crosses the halfway line. No better place, then, to end his frustrating famine than when he revisits the club where his brother Allen, is on the fringe of the first team and his father, Barney, is a youth team coach.

He knows how to do it — he scored in Denmark's 3-1 win over Belgium in group two of the European championship qualifying campaign last week — and, perhaps, just needs a slight deflection or goalkeeping error to help him on his way. If it happens in Copenhagen, tomorrow, it will be a tale to rival any told by the boy Hans Christian.

United's worries, page 44



FINE ATLASES from Times Books (Reduced postage until Dec 31)
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Prices include P&P (UK) Cheques payable to Akom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Tel 081-852 4575 (24hrs) No credit cards.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 296

ACROSS

- 1 Verbatim (4,3,4)
- 8 Body organ; Scouse bird (5)
- 9 Quick mover; aftermost sail (7)
- 10 Small station (4)
- 11 Name-changing method (4,4)
- 13 Basis; Shakespeare's weaver (6)
- 14 Noisy fight (6)
- 17 Summer disorder; Coward play (3,5)
- 19 Sally (4)
- 22 In ambush (7)
- 23 Command (5)
- 24 Obtain (unfair) advantage (5,1,5)

DOWN

- 1 Default on gambling debt (5)
- 2 Tricking stream (7)
- 3 Do; transport charge (4)
- 4 Reddish-brown; an apple (6)
- 5 Interminably (2,3,3)
- 6 Shift (5)
- 7 With gathered or pleated edges (6)
- 12 Sudden plunge (8)
- 13 Observe (6)
- 15 More circular (7)
- 16 Former Indian province, now partly Bangladesh (6)
- 18 Flemish town, destroyed in WW I (5)
- 20 Make thirsty (5)
- 21 Document to fill in; Platonic archetype (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 295

ACROSS: 1 Basic 4 Capital 8 Jelly bean 9 Big 10 Nod 11 To the fore 12 Swell 13 Eaves 16 Squamish 18 Rug 20 Act 21 Appendage 22 Nursery 23 Satan
DOWN: 1 Bajan 2 Splodge 3 Crystal Palace 4 Chesty 5 Pink elephants 6 Taboo 7 Legless 12 Sustain 14 Variant 15 Simply 17 Uter 19 Glean

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Vasyukov - Durasevic, Belgrade 1961.

White has a beautiful bishop on d4 which proved to be the key to a winning combination. How did he continue?

Solution, page 44
Raymond Keene, page 8

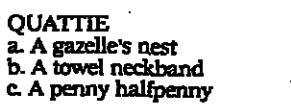
By Philip Howard

OROGRAPHIC

- a. Writing with the mouth
- b. Mountain rain
- c. A kind of shorthand

PEDIPLAIN

- a. A desert plain
- b. With hairless feet
- c. Perspicuous



Answers on page 44

Chinese athletes cleared by random drug tests

FROM DAVID MILLER
IN MONTE CARLO

THE International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) revealed here yesterday that all the leading Chinese runners, including those trained by Ma Junren, have negative results from random testing carried out by the federation two weeks before the Asian Games which ended on Sunday at Hiroshima.

Although the exceptional women runners who emerged in 1993 expectedly dominated the Games, their performances were comparatively slower. Two of Ma's male runners, Weiguo Mu and Ripeng Sun, won medals for the first time.

Were Ma's runners taking performance-enhancing drugs — as many foreign coaches and competitors have alleged — regular random testing will undoubtedly inhibit this, though the absence of random testing before last year does mean that it would have been possible to have taken substances that assist severe training and raise endurance levels.

The recent results are, nevertheless, encouraging news, though the single positive test on Qiaoping Qiu, the leading Chinese woman discus thrower, provides evidence that drugs are available to athletes within China — in this instance mandrolone.

The IAAF is dismayed, however, that the positive test was leaked last Friday by the Cologne laboratory to L'Equipe, the French sports daily newspaper, before the Chinese federation had been notified. Manfred Donike, the noted specialist at the Cologne laboratory, protested immediately at the leak, which discredits the lab.

Istvan Gyulai, the general secretary of the IAAF, said yesterday: "We are angry. Yet what are we to do? The leak could have come from a number of people. The answer would seem to be not to send tests to Cologne, which would deny them the income of £200 per test."

The IAAF is awaiting a request for a date by the British Athletics Federation (BAF) for a hearing on the positive tests of Diane Modahl revealed during the Commonwealth Games. The BAF is still preparing her defence.

Controversy pencilled in on motor racing's calendar

BY OLIVER HOET

NOT content with the furore surrounding accidents, pit-lane fires and rule changes, it seems that even Formula One's provisional calendar for next year is mired in controversy and speculation. There were 18 potential races scheduled on a list leaked yesterday, although how many survive today's meeting of the world council of the International Motor Sport Federation (FIA) in Paris is open to question.

Much of the interest yesterday centred on the inclusion of the San Marino Grand Prix after it had been omitted from a previous draft. Its position on the calendar is thought to depend on the findings of the report into the deaths of Ayrton Senna and Roland Ratzenberger at Imola in May. The conclusions are due to be published this month.

The calendar also left open the possibility that there may be a United States grand prix for the first time since 1991. Bernie Ecclestone, the FIA

Paul Tracy has been confirmed as Nigel Mansell's replacement on the Newman-Haas IndyCar team. Tracy, 25, takes over after Mansell's departure after two years on the circuit.

vice-president, has long wanted to resurrect the sport on the other side of the Atlantic and June 18, one week after the Canadian Grand Prix, would be the ideal time.

The date has been included but the venue is left blank. Possible destinations include Brandy Station, near Washington, and a street circuit on the outskirts of New York.

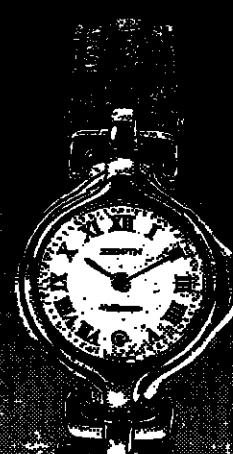
It appears that the Pacific Grand Prix in rural Japan has been retained but there are doubts about whether an Argentinian race will open the season on March 12. The organisers of a South African conglomerate are believed to be close to reaching agreement for holding a grand prix at Kyalami and that may replace either Argentina or the European Grand Prix, which is again scheduled for Jerez on October 8.

If Jerez loses out on that date, it may replace Barcelona as the venue for the Spanish Grand Prix on May 14. Anything is possible.

ZENITH

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